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# NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH HEALTH REPORTS 1955

INCLUDING REPORT ON THE  
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE





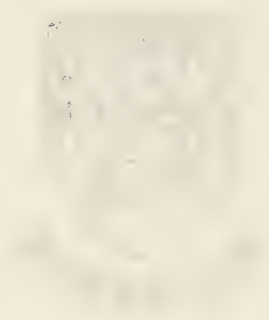
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**NORTHAMPTON  
COUNTY BOROUGH  
HEALTH REPORTS  
1955**

**INCLUDING REPORT ON THE  
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE**



NORTHAMPTON  
COUNTY BOROUGH  
HEALTH REPORTS  
1955

INCLUDING REPORT ON THE  
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE



# Health Report 1955



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# School Health Report 1955

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## INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH REPORT AND SCHOOL HEALTH REPORT, 1955

---

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, and Co-opted Members of the  
Education Committee of Northampton County Borough.*

In accordance with my statutory duty as your Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour to present the Annual Health Report for the year 1955. This is my tenth report and the eighty-second of the series and is prepared according to Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 dated 23rd November, 1955.

Also included with this Report are :—

(1) Mental Health Report (the eighth of the present series), prepared in compliance with Regulation 12 of the Mental Deficiency Regulations, 1948, which reads as follows :—

“ The Local Health Authority shall, not later than the thirtieth day of June in every year, make a report to the Minister of Health for the year ending on the thirty-first day of December preceding, on the performance of their duties under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938, as amended by the National Health Service Act, 1946.”  
(See pages 50 to 55).

(2) School Health Service Report (forty-eighth of the series), which conforms with the requirements of the Ministry of Education and complies with Regulation 13 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, which reads as follows :—

“ As soon as possible after the end of each calendar year the Authority shall submit to the Minister in respect of that year a report by their Principal School Medical Officer on the health and well-being of pupils in his care and of the work of himself and his staff in relation thereto, including a report on the School Dental Service by the Principal School Dental Officer.”  
(See pages 10 and 88 to 106).

### *Vital Statistics*

It is interesting to note, relative to the vital statistics for 1955 for Northampton County Borough, that :—

- (1) The birth-rate (13·2) was the lowest for fourteen years (see page 18) ;
- (2) The death-rate (12·0) was about the same as for 1954 (see page 18) ;
- (3) The total tuberculosis death-rate was 0·13, which is easily the lowest recorded (see page 42) ;
- (4) The infant mortality (17·7) is also the lowest recorded (see page 45).

### *Census, 1951*

Statistics extracted from the 1951 Census Volume were included in the 1954 Report.

Further information is given on page 18 and in Table 27 (page 85) and Table 28 (page 86).

### *Sanitary Circumstances*

The sanitary circumstances of the town, housing, and the inspection and supervision of food are mentioned in Sections III., IV., and V., pages 26 to 36.

The number of sanitary inspectors, as can be seen from the details of staff on page 14, was reduced through resignations to such an extent that all but essential sanitary work ceased. At the end of 1955, the staff of inspectors only consisted of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector: the establishment is eight. The whole of the routine duties relative to meat inspection fell to the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Northampton County Borough's slum clearance proposals are set out on page 30.

### *Infectious Diseases*

A dysentery outbreak is fully described on pages 37 and 38 and the importance is stressed of the necessity for cleanliness—in particular, hand washing. The outbreak formed the subject of a publication by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health in the April, 1956, Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service. I hope those interested will make a point of reading this very instructive article.

### *Tuberculosis*

A comprehensive report concerning the preventive work in connection with tuberculosis is given in Section VII. on pages 40 to 44.

A report on the sixth mass radiography survey is given on pages 43 and 44. Some 46 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were discovered and I think, from a public health standpoint, that this fully justified the work of the Unit.

### *Maternal and Child Care*

Section VIII., pages 45 to 50, contains the report on this subject.

In the autumn of 1954 a meeting with representatives of the British Medical Association and of the Local Medical Committee of the Executive Council was held in the Guildhall under the chairmanship of Alderman Mrs. H. M. Nicholls (Chairman of the Health Committee) to consider Ministry of Health Circular 17/54 dated 28th June, 1954, and the Report of the Central Health Services Council Committee on General Practice within the National Health Service relative to co-operation between medical practitioners and health visitors. The representatives were



informed of the many facilities which were available through the health visitor service and expressed their intention to make good use of these services, which were mostly unknown to them. Throughout 1955 the service of the health visitors has increasingly been used by the general practitioners with very satisfactory results.

Particular concern is expressed lest the large number of children and mothers who attend the child welfare centres on certain occasions creates an atmosphere which encourages the spread of infection. It may be noted that the average throughout the year of children and mothers attending the centres is 54 and 46 respectively. This means that occasionally these figures may be doubled.

It is interesting to observe from Table 20 (page 81) that 82.4 per cent. of the total registered births occurred in institutions. This is still more remarkable when the local housing conditions are considered. In a town with a lot of slums institutional midwifery is usually encouraged, but there is certainly nothing of this nature in Northampton. Those confinements which took place at home were in the care of general practitioner obstetricians and the Queen's nurses attended consequently as maternity nurses.

### *Mental Health*

The report on mental deficiency and lunacy comprises Section IX., pages 50 to 55.

It is pleasing to record that there has been a marked easement in obtaining hospital accommodation for mental defectives.

### *Welfare Services*

An account of the year's activities under the National Assistance Acts is given in Section X. on pages 55 to 63.

Details will be found on page 59 and sequence concerning the opening of Kings Heath Home of Rest and the acquisition of other properties for residential accommodation, viz: "Barnfield," 127 Harlestone Road; "The Priory," 260 Billing Road East; and Nos. 9, 10, and 11 St. George's Avenue. It is hoped that "Barnfield" and "The Priory" will be occupied in 1956.

While this accommodation will release much at St. Edmund's Hospital (joint user establishment), it will not ease the waiting list on page 60.

### *School Health Service*

The School Health Report for 1955 occupies pages 88 to 106. An advance copy in typescript was forwarded to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education on 23rd April, 1956.

The Principal School Dental Officer's report appears under the heading "Dental Inspection and Treatment" on pages 102 to 105, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953. One whole-time dentist was available throughout the year.



I have been aware that no sanitary inspections of school premises have been made by medical officers for many years and the advent of a dysentery outbreak suggested that it would be a good thing to reinstate these inspections. With this in mind I consulted the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education and, subsequently, obtained the approval of the Education Committee relative to these inspections, the results of which are duly reported to the Committee at quarterly intervals.

A new practice has commenced whereby the Psychiatrist reports certain cases—in the main, maladjusted children—to the Education Committee without prior reference to the Principal School Medical Officer. This seems contrary to Regulation 5 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953.

### *Conclusion*

General shortage of staff is so serious that I feel justified in reporting it formally in this introduction. There is difficulty in recruiting suitable clerical staff. The shortage of sanitary inspectors is notorious. There is but one dentist. There are 11 health visitors, including the Superintendent, out of an approved establishment of 21 and this establishment must necessarily be revised when sufficient health visitors are available in view of the extension of health visitor work under the National Health Service Act of 1946. It is estimated that the number of health visitors required may be 50.

For these reasons, I pay a great tribute to all members of the staff—professional and clerical—for their loyalty and splendid work throughout the year.

I express my appreciation for support both in and out of Committee by the Chairmen, Deputy-Chairmen, and members of the various Committees associated with the administration of the Health and School Health Departments.

It has been my policy to avoid expressing appreciation to individual members of the staff, but I think an exception may be made on the occasion of the pending retirement of Mr. A. F. Knight, who has been responsible for the drafting of these annual reports for the past 40 years and for 31 years held the post of Chief Clerk. I am sure everyone will wish him good health and happiness when the time comes for him to leave the Health Department.

CARRICK G. PAYTON

*Medical Officer of Health.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
7A ST. GILES' SQUARE,  
NORTHAMPTON.  
JUNE, 1956.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Certain information contained in these Annual Reports has been supplied by the following, to whom acknowledgment is made, and the Medical Officer of Health wishes personally to thank them for their co-operation during the year and hopes that their help has been reciprocated in some degree :—

Town Clerk

Borough Treasurer and Chief Rating Officer

Borough Engineer and Surveyor

Borough Architect and Town Planning Officer

Chief Education Officer

Housing Manager

Organisers of Physical Training

Engineer and Manager, Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board

Registrar-General

St. John Ambulance Brigade

Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing

Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association

Consultant Chest Physician

Tuberculosis Care Committee

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Northampton Employment Exchange

Messrs. R. H. Primavesi, Ltd.

Women's Voluntary Services, Northampton County Borough



# NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as constituted on 31st December, 1955)

---

*Ex-officio*

The Worshipful the Mayor  
(ALDERMAN WALTER LEWIS, J.P.)

*Chairman*

COUNCILLOR T. H. DOCKRELL, M.B., F.R.C.S.I.

*Deputy-Chairman*

ALDERMAN MRS. H. M. NICHOLLS

*Aldermen*

W. LEES  
W. A. PICKERING

*Councillors*

M. J. B. AMEY  
MRS. G. BROWN  
S. E. CLAYSON  
MRS. K. M. GIBBS

P. GIBSON  
W. D. HEYMANSON  
B. C. TIPPLESTON  
MRS. E. E. WILKINSON

---

## SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Health Services

COUNCILLOR MRS. WILKINSON (*Chairman*) ; ALDERMAN MRS. NICHOLLS (*Deputy-Chairman*) ; COUNCILLORS AMEY, DOCKRELL, MRS. GIBBS, and HEYMANSON.

*Non-Council Members*—MESDAMES E. DAVIES, H. MACQUIRE, and J. H. PEACH ; and DR. J. RUTHERFORD.

### Sanitary Services

COUNCILLOR GIBSON (*Chairman*) ; ALDERMAN MRS. NICHOLLS (*Deputy-Chairman*) ; COUNCILLORS MRS. BROWN, CLAYSON, DOCKRELL, and TIPPLESTON.

### Welfare Services

COUNCILLOR MRS. WILKINSON (*Chairman*) ; COUNCILLOR MRS. GIBBS (*Deputy-Chairman*) ; ALDERMEN LEES, MRS. NICHOLLS, and PICKERING ; COUNCILLORS CLAYSON and DOCKRELL.

*Non-Council Members*—MESDAMES E. BATCHELOR, G. L. CHARLESWORTH, J. H. PEACH, and I. E. WALKER.

*Each of the above Committees meets monthly.*

## STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1955

---

*Medical Officer of Health, Principal School Medical Officer, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, and Welfare Administrator—*

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H. (Also Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts)

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Principal School Medical Officer—*

JAMES G. HAGAN, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H. (Also Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts)

*Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare—*

MRS. M. MARTIN WILLIAMS, M.B., CH.B.

*Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers—*

MARGARET O'CONNOR, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

JOHN J. HOLLOWAY, M.B., B.CH., L.M., D.P.H. (Also Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts)

*Public Analyst\*—*

A. PRIDEAUX DAVSON, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

*Deputy Public Analyst\*—*

D. G. ALLEN, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

*Dental Surgeon†—*

J. P. WILSON, L.D.S.R.C.S. (Chief Dental Officer)

*Sanitary Inspectors—*

H. S. DAVIES (1, 2) (Chief Inspector)

F. R. ALLAN (1, 2) (Deputy Chief Inspector)

T. A. HARRIS (1, 2) (Resigned 31/1/55)

D. M. REID (1) (Resigned 30/4/55)

*Student Sanitary Inspector—*

E. FOSTER (Commenced 24/1/55)

*Health Visitors‡—*

MISS S. M. WEEKS (3, 4, 6) (Superintendent)

MISS R. M. BRADY (3, 4, 6)

MISS S. G. HANSFORD (3, 4, 6, 7)

MISS M. E. GRANT (3, 4, 6)

MISS F. H. COLLIER (3, 5, 6)

MISS F. H. CHAMBERLAIN (3, 4, 6)

MISS J. G. LANE (3, 4, 6)

MISS M. F. KENNARD (3, 4, 6)

MRS. N. MOORE (3, 4, 6)

MISS M. E. PYE (3, 4, 6) (Resigned 31/8/55)

MISS E. TURNER (3, 4, 6) (Resigned 30/9/55)

MISS M. FLEMING (3, 4, 6)

MISS F. L. WHITE (3, 5, 6) (Commenced 21/4/55)

*Student Health Visitors—*

MISS F. L. WHITE (3, 5) (Until 21/4/55)

MISS G. MOLDER (3, 4) (Commenced 21/4/55)

*Tuberculosis Visitor—*

MRS. M. A. ALLSEBROOK (3)

*Matron, Spencer Day Nursery—*

MRS. R. COOK (3, 8)

*Organiser of Domestic Help—*

MRS. I. M. BEATTIE (Commenced 3/1/55)

*Mental Health Officer (Mental Deficiency)—*

MRS. K. M. WARD (9) (Also Authorised Officer)

*Duly Authorised Officer and Mental Health Officer (Lunacy)—*

R. H. JOHNSON (9)

*Handicraft Centre Staff—*

MRS. M. A. AXFORD (10) (Supervisor)

MISS I. L. BULLOCK (Retired 6/1/55)

MRS. J. SCOTT, nee LINER (Resigned 31/8/55)

MISS J. P. JUSTICE

MRS. R. E. SHAW (Commenced 17/1/55)

MRS. M. E. PAYNE (Recommenced 5/9/55)

*Welfare Officer—*

MISS V. M. HARRISON (11)

*Assistant Welfare Officers—*

J. D. BENOY (11)

N. BOOTH (11)

*Superintendent, Kings Heath Home of Rest—*

MRS. E. M. DIGBY (Commenced 4/4/55)

*Occupational Therapist—*

Vacancy

*Clerks—*

H. T. BOSWELL (Chief Clerk)

L. W. GARNER (Senior Clerk from 1/12/55)

D. R. GROTHUSEN (Senior Clerk ; died 26/10/55)

A. F. KNIGHT (Statistical Clerk)

L. BLAKE

W. G. TOMALIN

R. N. RHODES

J. K. SWEENEY

J. FLOYD (Resigned 30/9/55)

C. W. LEWIS (Also Relief Authorised Officer ; commenced 28/12/55)

K. M. LINNELL (Also Relief Authorised Officer ; resigned 30/4/55)

B. W. KIRKTON (To National Service 3/12/55)

A. M. TIMSON

C. R. HARTE (Commenced 28/12/55)

MISS D. E. ADNITT

MRS. M. JOLLEY

MISS P. E. WALDEN (Commenced 15/8/55)

MISS J. RICHARDSON (Resigned 24/3/55)

MRS. T. F. WILLIAMS (Resigned 31/8/55)

MRS. D. M. AYRES (Commenced 26/9/55 ; resigned 28/10/55)



*Welfare Food Assistants—*

MISS I. D. MUTTON (Resigned 28/2/55)

MISS L. J. WILSON

MRS. E. M. SEWELL (Commenced 1/3/55)

*Storeman, Welfare Foods\*—*

G. W. CLAYTON

*Disinfestation Officer—*

F. J. R. MISSIN

*General Manual Assistant and Motor Driver—*

W. C. SMITH

*Rat-catcher—*

W. E. J. DUNKLEY

---

The following Officers on the staff of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board rendered part-time service to Northampton County Borough Council :—

ERNEST T. W. STARKIE, M.A., M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (*Consultant Chest Physician*)JAMES M. H. McMURRAY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (*Chest Physician*)MISS H. S. REDDISH (*Tuberculosis Almoner*)

---

\* Part-time appointment.

† Mainly for School Dental work ; part time devoted to Maternity and Child Welfare work.

‡ Health Visitors also undertake school work and tuberculosis visiting under a co-ordinated scheme.

- 1 Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.
- 2 Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
- 3 State Registered Nurse.
- 4 State Certified Midwife.
- 5 Part I. Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.
- 6 Health Visitor's Certificate.
- 7 State Registered Fever Nurse.
- 8 Certificate of National Nursery Examination Board.
- 9 Trained in Mental Deficiency and Lunacy.
- 10 Qualified Teacher.
- 11 Home Teacher's Certificate of College of Teachers of the Blind.

### OBITUARY

DR. S. ROWLAND (former *Medical Officer of Health*) ; retired 19/10/46,  
died 28/3/55

T. L. BOAST (former *Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector*) ; retired 1/1/54,  
died 8/10/55

D. R. GROTHUSEN (*Senior Clerk*) ; died 26/10/55

# I.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## Summary of Statistics—Northampton County Borough

Position : Latitude.....52° 14' North ; Longitude.....0° 54' West  
 Elevation of Guildhall above mean sea level ..... 252 feet  
 Area .....6,201 acres (9·7 square miles)

### Population :—

Census 1951 ..... 104,432

Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population (all ages)  
 as at 30th June, 1955, including members of Armed  
 Forces stationed in area ..... 102,800

### Number of Separate Dwellings Occupied :—

Census 1951 ..... 30,677

According to Rate Books (31st December, 1955) ..... 32,977

Number of Private Households (Census 1951) ..... 32,687

Rateable Value (31st December, 1955) ..... £874,987

Estimated Yield of One Penny Rate 1955/56 ..... £3,483

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

	TOTALS	MALES	FEMALES		
Live Births	Legitimate 1,268	642	626	} Birth-rate	13·2
	Illegitimate 85	41	44		
	Total 1,353	683	670		
Adjusted Birth-rate (Area Comparability Factor 1·01) .....					13·3
Stillbirths	Legitimate 28	17	11	} Rate	0·31*
	Illegitimate 4	2	2		
	Total 32	19	13		
Deaths .....	1,236	658	578	—Death-rate	12·0
Adjusted Death-rate (Area Comparability Factor 0·90) .....					10·8
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth					0
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age per 1,000 Live Births :—					
Legitimate...16·6		Illegitimate...35·3	Total (24 deaths)		17·7
(21 deaths)		(3 deaths)			

	NUMBER	RATE
Deaths from Measles .....	0	0·00
Deaths from Whooping Cough .....	1	0·01
Deaths from Diphtheria .....	0	0·00
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	12	0·12
Deaths from Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	1	0·01
Total Tuberculosis Deaths .....	13	0·13
Deaths from Cancer .....	235	2·29
Deaths from Influenza .....	6	0·06

\* 23·1 per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births Registered.



**Population.** (Table A, page 87). The Registrar-General estimated the home population at all ages of Northampton County Borough as at 30th June, 1955, to be 102,800, which is 900 less than his estimate for mid-year 1954.

The natural increase of the population, *i.e.*, the surplus of registered live births over deaths, for 1955 was 117, or 1.14 per thousand living.

Table A gives the population figures from 1901 onwards.

**Births.** (Tables 1 and 2, page 64). 1,353 live births (683 males, 670 females) were registered, giving a birth-rate of 13.2 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, compared with 15.0 for England and Wales.

Table 1 gives the birth-rates for the last decennium compared with those for England and Wales.

85 (6.3 per cent.) of the live births were illegitimate. In England and Wales the percentage was 4.5. The percentages for the last ten years are shewn in Table 2.

The adjusted birth-rate for Northampton County Borough (calculated by multiplying the crude rate by the Registrar-General's area comparability factor of 1.01) was 13.3.

**Deaths.** (Table 3, page 64, and Table C at end). 1,236 deaths (658 males, 578 females) were registered, equal to a death-rate of 12.0, compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. Table 3 gives the local and national death-rates for the last ten years.

872 (70.6 per cent.) of the deaths related to elderly persons aged sixty-five years and upwards.

Table C at the end of this report, giving the causes of death in age-periods, was compiled from information supplied by the Registrar-General.

The adjusted death-rate for Northampton County Borough (calculated by multiplying the crude rate by the area comparability factor of 0.90) was 10.8.

**Census, 1951.** (Tables 27 and 28, pages 85 and 86). In the Annual Health Report for 1954, use was made of information from the Census Volume dealing with Northamptonshire to compile four tables giving intercensal population changes, municipal ward populations, age and sex distribution and marital condition, and social class analysis of occupied and retired males aged fifteen years and over.

Further material culled from the Census Volume has been incorporated in two interesting tables in the present report.

Table 27 (page 85) contains data under a variety of headings and gives comparable figures from the two immediately preceding censuses, 1921 and 1931.

As stated last year, in considering the last intercensal increase of 12,091, it must be borne in mind that it was for a twenty-year period (1931 to 1951—there was no census in 1941) and also that there was a large extension of the County Borough boundaries on 1st April, 1932, which accounted at that time for an addition of 4,205 persons.

The consequence is that had the County Borough boundary been the same in 1931 as it is now, the census population in 1931 would have been 96,546 (instead of 92,341). Similarly, in 1921 it would have been 92,013 (instead of 90,895 for the smaller area). The true intercensal increases would thus have been: ten-year period 1921-1931, 4,533 (4·9 per cent.) and twenty-year period 1931-1951, 7,886 (7·6 per cent.).

It will be seen that there were 718 parliamentary electors per thousand of the population in 1951, compared with 678 in 1931 and 487 in 1921.

1·23 per cent. of the population was found to be living in private households at a density of more than two persons per room. This is an improvement on 1931 (2·00 per cent.) and 1921 (2·71 per cent.).

Table 28 (page 86) gives census statistics relating to the possession of certain sanitary amenities in private households. This is the first census at which such information has been collected. It will be observed that 12,183 households were entirely without the use of a fixed bath and 2,080 were sharing a bath, together amounting to 14,263, or 44 per cent. of all private households.

17,896 (55 per cent.) of the 32,687 private households had the exclusive use of all five arrangements: (1) piped water, (2) cooking stove, (3) kitchen sink, (4) water closet, and (5) fixed bath.

**State of Employment.** The level of employment remained high throughout 1955. The number of persons registered as unemployed at Northampton Employment Exchange was less than for the previous year, the average being 219 (134 men and 85 women). The highest number registered was 312 (184 men and 128 women) and the lowest was 156 (97 men and 59 women).

On 12th December, 1955, the unemployed register comprised 109 men (aged 18 years and over) and 64 women (aged 18 years and over), total 173. 40 of the men and 22 of the women were over fifty years of age; 25 men and 6 women were registered disabled persons suitable for ordinary employment.

There was an increase in the number of notified outstanding vacancies, the total on 14th December, 1955, being 1,047 (739 men and 308 women).

The principal outstanding demands for men were in building and civil engineering, general engineering, manufacture and repair of vehicles and aircraft, manufacture of footwear, public utility services, and transport (road and rail).

For women the demands were mainly in the manufacture of clothing, footwear, and electrical components; hospital services, and retail distributive trades.



**Meteorology.** (Table 4, page 65). The total rainfall for 1955 was 23·07 inches, *i.e.*, 6·78 inches less than in 1954 and 2·00 inches below the average (25·07) for the past fifty-one years, 1904 to 1954 inclusive. The wettest month was May and the driest July. The heaviest fall occurred on 8th June, when 1·82 inches were registered. The number of days on which 0·01 inch or more rain fell was 159.

The highest shade temperature recorded was 89·0°F. on 17th July. The lowest reading of the thermometer was 15·0°F. on 27th February. There were 87 cold nights, *i.e.*, nights when the temperature fell to 32°F. (freezing point) or below.

The prevailing wind was north-west on 119 days, north-east on 101, south-west on 90, and south-east on 55.

**Other Statistics.** The notes on infant and maternal mortality, stillbirths, notifiable and other diseases, housing conditions, and other statistics usually included in the annual report, will be found under the headings referring to these matters.

Attention is also directed to the statistics on page 17, to Table A on page 87, and to Tables B and C at the end of this report.

## II.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

**Health Staff.** A list of the officers of the Health Department appears on pages 14 to 16.

The staff employed in the school health service is listed in the Annual Report upon the School Health Service on page 90.

**Treatment Centres and Clinics.** A list is given below of clinics, etc., in Northampton County Borough on 31st December, 1955 :—

### ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre.

Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, or by appointment.

\* Those patients booked for confinement at the Barratt Maternity Home attend the Barratt Home Ante-natal Clinic; patients booked for St. Edmund's Hospital attend the Ante-natal Clinic at that hospital: these Ante-natal Clinics are under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

### CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

- (1) Abington Avenue (Congregational Church Rooms).  
Thursdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (2) Broadmead (Baptist Church Rooms).  
Mondays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (3) Dallington (Spencer-Dallington Community Centre).  
Thursdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (4) Doddridge Memorial (Congregational Church Rooms).  
Wednesdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.

*Kings Heath - Mrs White*

1956

- (5) Far Cotton (St. Mary's Church Rooms).  
Mondays and ~~Wednesdays~~, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (6) Kingsley Park (Methodist Church Rooms).  
Mondays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (7) Kingsthorpe (Baptist Church Rooms).  
Tuesdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (8) St. David's (Church Rooms).  
Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (9) St. Giles' Street (Infant Welfare Centre).  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (10) St. Sepulchre's (Church Buildings).  
Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (11) Wheatfield Road (Abington Community Centre).  
Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.

(With the exception of (9) above, all these centres are held on hired premises).

#### DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION CLINICS

- (1) St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre.  
Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. (Children under five years of age).
- (2) School Clinic, King Street. School children by appointment.

#### SMALLPOX VACCINATION CLINIC

St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre. Children under five years of age by appointment.

#### MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

#### DENTAL CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

#### EYE CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

#### \*ORTHOPTIC CLINIC

Northampton General Hospital. School cases referred by Ophthalmic Surgeon.

#### \*EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC

Northampton General Hospital. Cases referred from School Clinic and Child Welfare Centres.

#### \*ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC

Manfield Orthopædic Clinic, Hazelwood Road. Cases referred through Child Welfare Centres or School Clinic.

#### REMEDIAL EXERCISES CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

#### SUNLIGHT CLINIC

- (1) St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre. Cases referred from Child Welfare Centres.
- (2) School Clinic, King Street. School children by appointment.

*transferred to St. Giles' Street, Thursdays 1957*



**SPEECH CLINIC**

28 Billing Road. By appointment.

**CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC**

County Offices, Guildhall Road. By appointment.

**\*CHEST CLINIC (TUBERCULOSIS)**

Chest Clinic, 11 St. Matthew's Parade.

Routine sessions: Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Session for workers: Mondays from 5.30 p.m.

Sessions for diagnosis cases: Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m.

Session for contacts, etc.: By arrangement.

Session for artificial pneumothorax treatment: Mondays and Wednesdays commencing 2 p.m.

Sessions for miniature X-ray examination (to which any member of the public can be admitted):—

Tuesdays, 11.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Domiciliary visits: By arrangement with the Consultant Chest Physician.

**\*VENEREAL DISEASES**

Treatment Centre, Northampton General Hospital.

Males—Wednesdays 2 p.m.; Fridays 5 p.m.

Females—Mondays 5 p.m.; Fridays 2 p.m.

\* Clinics marked with an asterisk are under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

**National Health Service.** The proposals of Northampton County Borough Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, were approved by the Minister of Health during 1948. Modifications were made in 1950, 1952, and 1954. The Annual Health Reports for 1948, 1950, 1952, and 1954 should be consulted for further details.

The only modification made in 1955 (approved by the Minister of Health on 5th December, 1955) is noted below:—

*Section 28 (Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care)*

Deletion of clause (5) of section A, which reads as follows:—

“Workshop. It was agreed in principle that a workshop might be set up to give work to employable (tuberculous) patients who have a positive sputum and normally are unable to enter workshops where there is risk of infecting other persons.”

(Note: The Ministry of Labour and National Service are now responsible for the training of handicapped and disabled persons and it would no longer be permissible for the Local Authority to provide a workshop as originally contemplated in the scheme).



A special survey of local health services under the National Health Service Acts, 1946 to 1952, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 29/52 dated 19th August, 1952, was incorporated in the 1952 Report, pages 26 to 39.

The report of the Principal School Dental Officer on the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and for young children during 1955 is given on pages 48 and 83.

**Home Nursing.** This service is provided by the Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing on behalf of the Council under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

During 1955, Queen's Nurses paid 67,612 visits to 1,786 cases. There were 15 whole-time and 11 part-time nurses on the staff at the end of the year.

**Ambulance Services.** Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Northampton Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade operate the ambulance services on behalf of the Local Authority, covering infectious disease cases as well as general ambulance work and accidents.

The following summarises the work during 1955 :—

	AMBULANCES	CARS	TOTALS
Vehicles on 31/12/55 .....	7	2	9
Journeys .....	6,229	7,866	14,095
Patients carried .....	9,996	14,234	24,230
Accidents and other emergency journeys included above .....	540	71	611
Total mileage .....	48,940	70,034	118,974

Of the total mileage of 118,974, journeys within the County Borough amounted to 81,861 miles and those to destinations outside to 37,113. There were 283 journeys of 50 miles or more which accounted for 27,855 miles of the 37,113.

The 1955 mileage of 118,974 compares with 116,929 in 1954.

The average monthly mileage in 1955 was 9,915, compared with 9,744 in 1954.

On 31st December, 1955, the paid whole-time drivers and attendants numbered 11.

Whenever possible, railway facilities were used for the longer journeys. There were 77 such journeys in 1955, totalling 9,307 miles.

There were 180 persons conveyed by motor ambulance or sitting case car at the request of the Ministry of Pensions or the Ministry of Health to artificial limb and appliance centres, mainly at Leicester and Nottingham, involving 63 journeys and a mileage of 4,692.

**Convalescence.** In accordance with the Council's scheme under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, five persons received recuperative convalescence for two weeks. They were assessed to contribute towards the cost according to their means. Cases were sent to the following homes :—

Beau Site Home, Hastings .....	1
St. John's Home, Weston Favell .....	3
St. Joseph's Home, Bournemouth .....	1

**Domestic Help.** The following information relates to the working of the Domestic Help Scheme under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 :—

Administrative staff on 31st December, 1955 :—

Organiser .....	1	}	2
Clerk .....	1		

Home helps employed on 31st December, 1955 :—

Whole time (permanent staff) .....	9	}	54
Part time (temporary staff) .....	45		

Cases helped during 1955 :—

Maternity (including expectant mothers) .....	59	}	356
Tuberculosis .....	4		
Chronic sick (including aged and infirm) .....	235		
Others .....	58		

(Weekly average of cases helped=141).

Visits by Organiser :—

To home helps .....	—	}	129
To homes of patients .....	129		

Under the approved scheme, help can be provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Application is made to the Medical Officer of Health. Charges appropriate to the means of the user are made in accordance with a local scale.

**Mental Health Services.** The Health Committee, acting through the Health Services Sub-Committee (*see* page 13), are responsible for the administration locally of legislation embodied in the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts, as amended by the National Health Service Acts.

The report for 1955 is incorporated in this volume (*see* Section IX. on pages 50 to 55).

**School Health Service.** The Medical Officer of Health is also Principal School Medical Officer. The Annual Report upon the School Health Service is published on pages 88 to 106 and gives particulars of the staff employed and the work done during 1955.



**Welfare Services.** In Northampton County Borough the welfare services under the National Assistance Acts are under the general administration of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also designated Welfare Administrator.

Reference should be made to Section X. on pages 55 to 63

**Children's Homes, etc.** The following work was performed by the Health Department for the Children Committee :—

Visits by Medical Officers to Children's Homes .....	65
Number of examinations of children in Homes .....	201
Examinations by Medical Officers of boarded-out children ...	41

**Laboratory Facilities.** The work in connection with water and food or the control of epidemic diseases, etc., is performed in the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital, free of charge to the Local Authority.

**Maternity and Other Nursing Homes.** On 31st December, 1955, three nursing homes (containing 51 beds, including 33 for maternity cases) were on the register kept under Section 187 of the Public Health Act, 1936, viz :—

HOME	REGISTERED FOR
St. Matthew's Nursing Home, 29/31 St. Matthew's Parade	22 patients (not more than 4 to be maternity cases)
St. Saviour's Home, 21A Manor Road	15 maternity cases
Speedwell Nursing Home, 51 East Park Parade	14 maternity cases

St. Saviour's Home is managed by the Peterborough Diocesan Council of Moral Welfare. Unmarried mothers are retained here, along with their babies, for about four months, during which period they receive training in domestic duties as well as in child management.

These homes are regularly inspected by the Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, the officer appointed by the Local Authority to carry out this duty. (See page 47).

One nursing home was exempted from registration under Section 192 of the Public Health Act, 1936, viz : Bethany Homestead Nursing Home.

**Health Education.** Mothers attending child welfare clinics were instructed and advised by doctors and health visitors of the Health Department staff on a variety of health education subjects.

Lectures and talks were also given by members of the staff for the benefit of groups of interested persons or organisations. Eight officers gave 51 talks in this way to audiences totalling about 1,550.



**Contributions to Voluntary Associations.** Below is a list of annual grants and contributions made by the Council, through the Health Committee, to voluntary associations operating in the field of public health and welfare :—

ASSOCIATION	ANNUAL AMOUNT			OBSERVATION
	£	s.	d.	
<i>Paid through Local Health Authority Account</i>				
National Baby Welfare Council .....	5	5	0	Annual grant
National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare .....	5	5	0	Annual affiliation fee
Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association	100	0	0	Annual grant
Northampton Women's Welfare Association ....	15	0	0	Annual grant
Central Midwives Board	50	11	2	Apportioned contribution for 1954/55
Northampton Tuberculosis Care Committee ....	250	0	0	Annual grant
National Association for Mental Health .....	5	5	0	Annual grant
<i>Paid through Welfare Account</i>				
Northampton Council of Social Service .....	600	0	0	Annual grant re St. George's Homestead
Southern Regional Association for the Blind ....	19	0	0	Apportioned contribution for 1954/55
National Library for the Blind .....	66	0	0	Annual contribution based on readers
<i>Paid through Public Health Account</i>				
Royal Sanitary Institute	5	5	0	Annual grant
Total .....	£1,121	11	2	

**Legislation in Force.** There are no amendments to record during 1955 to the list of Local Acts and Orders and General Adoptive Acts relating to public health in force in Northampton County Borough, printed on pages 28 and 29 of the 1953 Report, and the list of Byelaws given on page 27 of the 1954 Report.

### III.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

**Water Supply.** Particulars relating to the waterworks at Ravensthorpe and Hollowell and the sources of the public water supply of Northampton County Borough and district have been given in previous reports. The water is treated with charcoal for undesirable flavour, filtered, and chlorinated, so that it reaches a high degree of bacteriological purity.

Pitsford Reservoir, now nearing completion, will cover an area of 175 acres and will hold 4,000,000,000 gallons, compared with the present reservoirs at Ravensthorpe (414,000,000 gallons) and Hollowell (453,000,000 gallons).

This water undertaking is managed by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, of which Northampton County Borough are a constituent authority.

It must be made quite clear, however, that under Section 28 of the Water Act, 1945, it is the duty of every local authority to take from time to time such steps as may be necessary for ascertaining the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies within their district, etc.

112 samples collected from various points of supply within the County Borough were submitted for bacteriological examination and a very satisfactory report was received in practically every instance.

The average daily consumption of water in the County Borough is estimated to be 33 gallons per head of the population.

Only a very few houses are not supplied direct from the public mains.

**Drainage and Sewerage.** Chiefly as a result of rat complaints, existing drains are tested and repaired under the supervision of the district sanitary inspectors, new drainage and reconstructions being the responsibility of the Borough Engineer, as also is sewage disposal.

The dry weather flow of sewage to the Works, Great Billing, averages 5 million gallons per day. The maximum rate of sewage flow in storm is approximately 36 million gallons per day.

There are still a few properties on the outskirts of the County Borough not connected to the main sewerage system, but none of these gave rise to complaints. During 1955, five houses in Bant's Lane were connected to the sewer and the cesspools abolished.

**Rivers, Streams, and Watercourses.** No serious complaints were received during the year and at no time did conditions arise to cause a nuisance within the County Borough.

**Public Cleansing.** This continues to be efficiently carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer. Collections of household refuse and salvage are made twice weekly.

Dustbins are provided by the Local Authority for the use of householders, free of charge, under Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**District Inspection.** Table 5, page 66, summarises the work of the sanitary inspectors. 10,829 inspections and visits were made during 1955.

**Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.** There are no byelaws in operation relating to the emission of black smoke, nevertheless smoke nuisance in Northampton County Borough does not reach anything



like the proportion it does in large industrial areas, but due to the bad siting of many factories there is still much ground to be covered before the position can be considered satisfactory. Due to the shortage of sanitary inspectors, it was not possible to devote the time to this problem which it warrants; specific complaints were dealt with and in each instance the firm concerned co-operated fully and some improvement was effected. Owing to the lack of routine inspection of premises, the bad practice of burning trade waste caused nuisance from time to time. \*

**Swimming Baths.** Northampton has adequate swimming facilities, both indoor and open-air. The Public Baths, Upper Mounts, is a modern establishment, whilst the open-air swimming pool, known as Midsummer Meadow Baths, is a large sheet of water with pleasant surroundings. In addition, there is an indoor bath at Barry Road School.

The open-air baths at Midsummer Meadow were re-opened on 26th June, 1955, after alterations and the installation of new filtration and chlorination plant. They remained open until 25th September. There were record attendances during the hot weather. Samples were submitted for bacteriological examination periodically.

**Disinfestation Service.** Insect problems of all types are dealt with by the municipal disinfestation service. Gammexane and D.D.T. compositions are used and applied by a 30 lb. pressure spray and powder blower. Bedding, etc., is dealt with in a steam disinfector.

**Charges:** For ordinary dwellinghouses, a flat rate of five shillings per room, with a maximum charge of £2 per house. For infestations of bed bugs and fleas, which are certified by the sanitary inspectors as requiring attention in the public interest, no charge is made.

Treatment of business premises is carried out by contract or after survey and estimate of cost has been prepared for special solutions which may have to be purchased or made up to deal with the particular problem.

The information below regarding the eradication of bed bugs is set out in the form required by the Ministry of Health:—

- (1) During 1955, infestations of bed bugs were found in 7 Council houses and 10 other houses.
- (2) Methods of disinfestation employed—*see first paragraph*.
- (3) The furniture and effects of tenants from 5 bug-infested houses were treated prior to removal to Council houses.
- (4) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Disinfestation Officer under the supervision of the sanitary inspectors.
- (5) Remedial measures are explained to tenants when premises are treated, so as to prevent re-infestation.

**Canal Boats.** The following is extracted from the annual report under Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, prepared for the Ministry of Health:—

Owing to the depleted staff of sanitary inspectors, it was not possible for any time to be devoted to this work during 1955.



The number of boats on the register believed to be in use is three.

No cases of infectious disease were notified and no boats were detained for disinfection.

**Common Lodging Houses.** There is only one common lodging house on the register kept under Section 237, Public Health Act, 1936, *viz* : 5 St. Andrew's Street, with accommodation for 34 men. It was only possible to visit the premises five times during the year.

**Factories.** Table 8 (page 73) gives particulars of premises on the register and work done under the Factories Act, 1937, in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

**Offensive Trades.** At the end of December, 1955, there were twelve names on the list of proprietors of offensive trades (Section 107, Public Health Act, 1936), *viz* :—

Fat melter .....	1
Rag and bone dealers .....	8
Bone dealer .....	1
Tripe boiler .....	1
Tripe boiler, fat melter, and gut scraper .....	1

It was not possible to supervise these trades. No complaints were received, however, and it is assumed that they were conducted satisfactorily.

**Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.** There is one site in the County Borough licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the use of two movable trailer caravans. Municipal car parks are occasionally used by variety artistes and circus performers.

**Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials.** No flock is manufactured in Northampton, but eight premises where flock is used are registered under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. No samples were taken.

**Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs.** Due to staff shortage, no inspections were made nor was it possible to take any samples during 1955 under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

**Rodent Control.** The full-time Rat-catcher works under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. His advice and help are at the service of the occupier of any dwellinghouse, free of charge, whereas a charge is made in respect of business premises.

Only poisons approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are used. These are zinc phosphide for sewer treatments and Warfarin for surface infestations.

1,394 visits were made by the Rat-catcher in addition to 302 visits by sanitary inspectors. There were 383 poison baitings and 1,462 rat bodies were picked up.



Sewer treatment was again undertaken in 1955. There was a preliminary test baiting of 221 manholes (approximately one-tenth of the total manholes—2,664) ; 106 of these baits were taken. In the resulting sewer treatment, 722 manholes were treated and 584 had baits taken. There is no doubt that the treatment of sewers has a marked effect on the rat population, but it is impossible to estimate the kill with any accuracy.

#### IV.—HOUSING

**Council Houses.** The present position of the municipal housing schemes is given below :—

Number of Council houses completed during 1955 .....	305
Total number of houses erected for the Corporation up to 31st December, 1955 (exclusive of 250 temporary bungalows) .....	7,735

**Other Houses.** The following private building operations relating to housing, plans for which had been approved by the Council, were carried out during the year :—

New dwellinghouses (private enterprise) .....	227
Conversion of houses into flats (number of family units) ....	8
New shops .....	3
New licensed premises .....	2
Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouses .....	69
New private garages .....	193

**Individual Unfit Houses.** (Tables 6 and 7, pages 68 and 70). 51 individual houses were represented as unfit under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 48 of these were occupied at the time. Demolition Orders were made in 25 instances under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Closing Orders under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made in 23 cases ; action relative to the remaining 3 was under consideration at the end of the year (*see* Table 6).

Table 7 gives the position at the end of 1955 of 93 houses represented prior to 1955.

29 of the houses shewn in Tables 6 and 7 were demolished during 1955. 136 persons from 52 families were rehoused from 48 houses. 36 represented houses were still occupied at the end of 1955.

**Slum Clearance Proposals.** It was not possible, owing to shortage of sanitary inspectors, to carry out a survey of the district for the purpose of furnishing the Minister of Housing and Local Government with slum clearance proposals, as requested in Circular 55/54 dated 28th August, 1954. Alternatively, an intelligent guess was made based on the local knowledge of the officers concerned. By this means, it was estimated that there were 1,505 unfit houses within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, within a period of twenty years.

Eventually the Council, on the recommendation of the Housing Committee, approved on 3rd October, 1955, the submission to the Ministry of proposals for dealing with 1,550 houses in fifteen years, approximately 550 of them to be demolished within the first five years.

**Repairs to Property.** Table 5 (page 66) gives particulars of the work of the sanitary inspectors relative to housing.

Property repairs are dealt with under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, 302 informal and 200 statutory notices being served. 21 informal and 120 statutory notices were outstanding at the end of 1955. The low rentals of controlled houses compared with the high cost of building repairs is a serious obstacle which must be overcome if the life of existing properties is to be preserved, otherwise their deterioration may outweigh the benefits of building new houses.

Legal proceedings were resorted to on two occasions to enforce notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the repair of property.

**Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.** Six certificates of disrepair were issued in 1955 under Section 26 (1) of this Act. Four applications were granted for revocation of such certificates after execution of the necessary works.

**Overcrowding.** Cases of overcrowding continue to be brought to notice. There were 22 known cases, involving 138 persons, at the end of 1955, most of them being of a minor character when measured by legal standards (Section 58, Housing Act, 1936).

**Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.** On 15th December, 1955, the waiting list for Council houses comprised 2,078 applicants, classified as follows :—

In rooms, no children .....	336
In rooms, one child .....	480
In rooms, two or more children .....	218
Single persons .....	37
Tenants of houses .....	648
Resident outside the County Borough .....	165
Applicants for one-bedroom dwellings .....	180
Applicants awaiting marriage .....	14
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>2,078</b>

**Housing Statistics.** The particulars for 1955 are set out below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

1.—*Inspection of Dwellinghouses.*

(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	450
--	-----



(2) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .....	67
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	51
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	302

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	143
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .....	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	200
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .....	157
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	25
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	19*

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	0

E.—Proceedings under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	24
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were substituted for Demolition Orders .....	0

4.—*Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

A.—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	22
(2) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	138†
B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	9
C.—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	19
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	108‡
D.—Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	Nil
E.—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .....	‡

\* 9 others were demolished after Closing Orders and 1 after official representation only.

† Equivalent number of units=116 and 87 respectively.

‡ See paragraph on "Overcrowding" on page 31.

**Other Housing Matters.** Reference should be made to Section III. "Sanitary Circumstances" for other information bearing on housing.

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the County Borough on 31st December, 1955, was 32,977. For a population of 102,800 this is equivalent to an average of 3.1 persons per house.

It is recorded that 1,909 questionnaires were answered for the Town Clerk's Department under the Land Charges Act, 1925.

## V.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

**Milk and Dairies.** At the end of 1955 the following entries were in the register kept under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

Dairy premises .....	5
Milk distributors .....	139

**Designated Milk.** The following licences under the various Special Designations Regulations were in operation at the end of 1955 :—



**Tuberculin Tested Milk**

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "tuberculin tested" (including four bottling establishments) .....	23
--	----

**Pasteurised Milk**

Dealer's (pasteuriser's) licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised" .....	5
Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised" .....	102

**Sterilised Milk**

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "sterilised" .....	88
--	----

360 samples of milk were submitted for examination during 1955, viz: 99 tuberculin tested (pasteurised), 227 pasteurised, and 34 sterilised. 6 samples failed to pass the methylene blue test.

All but two of the pasteurised and all the tuberculin tested (pasteurised) samples were submitted to the phosphatase test; 4 failed to reach the required standard. All the samples of sterilised milk were subjected to the turbidity test; each was satisfactory.

Particulars regarding the defaulting samples were reported to the Area Milk Officer, as requested by the Ministry of Food.

**Tubercle Bacilli in Milk.** Two samples of ordinary raw milk were submitted in 1955 for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Both satisfactorily passed the guinea pig test.

**Meat and Food Inspection.** (Tables 10 and 11, pages 75 and 76). The total kill increased on 1954 by 11,042 animals, comprising 2,730 extra cattle and 8,312 smalls. Due to the efforts of the Chief Sanitary Inspector who, in addition to his other responsibilities, has undertaken the inspection of meat, it was possible to maintain 100 per cent. inspection. This entails providing a seven days per week service.

There has been a marked increase in the amount of liver condemned for distomatosis. Whilst it is a great pity that so much of this valuable food is wasted in this way, the majority of it is used for pharmaceutical purposes and a small quantity for feeding mink at a nearby farm.

A few cases of *cysticercus bovis* were found, but it was only necessary to detain one carcase in cold store for the prescribed period.

Other foods condemned included a small percentage of the throughput of wet fish, due to delay on the railway during warm weather, and tins, jars, and packets of foodstuffs, mainly from provision merchants.

During the year, 14 samples of cooked and prepared meat products were submitted for bacteriological examination.

**Seizure of Unsound Food.** It was not necessary to seize any unsound food, but 2,960 surrender notes were issued—1,320 for meat, etc., from slaughterhouses and 1,640 for tins, etc., of food (see Table 10, page 75).

**Slaughterhouses.** There are eleven slaughterhouses on the register, viz :—

26 Abbey Road  
68 Bailiff Street  
Cattlemarket  
14 Military Road  
1A Oliver Street  
Ransome Road  
8 Regent Square  
St. Andrew's Hospital  
69 St. James' Road  
38 Sandhill Road  
64 Wellington Street

With the exception of 26 Abbey Road, all are in regular use.

In addition to the meat produced from these slaughterhouses, there are three depots from which home and Irish killed meat and offal is distributed. The increase in the throughput from these premises and the slaughterhouses endorses the fact that Northampton is a very suitable centre for the production and distribution of meat. The need for a public abattoir is very great, particularly in view of the fact that these slaughterhouses, with perhaps one exception, could not comply with the minimum standard recommended by the Inter-departmental Committee. It seems very doubtful, however, whether much progress will be made in this direction owing to the Government's financial policy.

**Slaughter of Animals.** At the end of 1955, the names of 43 slaughtermen were on the register kept under the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

**Bakehouses.** The 45 bakehouses in the County Borough received routine inspections under the Factories Acts.

**Butter and Margarine.** Under Section 34 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the following registrations were in operation at the end of 1955 :—

Butter factories .....	3
Wholesale dealers in margarine .....	29

**Ice Cream.** At the end of 1955, the following registrations of ice cream premises under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were in operation :—

GROUP I.	Storing and selling prepacked ice cream .....	304
GROUP II.	Storing and selling bulk ice cream .....	24
GROUP III.	Manufacturing, storing, and selling cold mix ice cream .....	10
GROUP IV.	Manufacturing, storing, and selling hot mix ice cream .....	3

Total .....	341
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10 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

**Shell-fish.** Mussels sold in this County Borough come mainly from Boston and King's Lynn, a large proportion being imported.

**Food Poisoning.** 13 cases of food poisoning were notified under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in Northampton County Borough during 1955. This is equal to an attack-rate of 0.13 per thousand of the population.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning. They were all single cases. The vehicle of infection was not traced in any of them. In four the organism *Salmonella typhi-murium* was isolated from faeces.

An outbreak of dysentery occurred in the Kings Heath area in the early part of the year (see page 37).

**Sampling of Food and Drugs.** (Table 12, page 77). 8 samples (all informal) were taken by the sanitary inspectors under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950. Normally, this work is done on a rota and samples are taken on a basis of 3 per 1,000 population, at least one-third being milks, but owing to acute shortage of staff the programme had to be seriously curtailed.

Sampling includes enforcement of the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the various food standards regulations.

The nature of the samples submitted to the Public Analyst is given in Table 12. 1 sample (12.5 per cent.) was found to be not genuine. The action taken was as follows :—

Sample No. 1 (informal). Sample of margarine with 10 per cent. butter. Public Analyst reported that it contained 10 per cent. approximately of butter and 730 International Units of vitamin A per ounce (instead of standard not less than 760 and not more than 940 International Units per ounce); sample, therefore, slightly deficient in vitamin A. Two further samples were taken and found to be genuine.

Preservatives were not detected in any of the samples sent for analysis.

**Prosecutions.** There were three prosecutions for breaches of Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

The bakers of a loaf of bread found to contain a piece of glass were fined £5.

A tin of golden plums contained a 10½ inch length of bandage; the manufacturers were fined £5.

Splintered glass found in a bottle of milk; this case was dismissed.

A dairy firm was fined £1 in each of two cases of "dirty" milk bottles in contravention of Article 26 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

There were also two prosecutions relating to the repair of property (see page 31).

## VI.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

**Measles.** 2,003 notifications of measles were received. The attack-rate was 19·49. There were no deaths.

**Whooping Cough.** 244 notifications of whooping cough were received. The attack-rate was 2·37. There was one death.

Prophylactic whooping cough vaccine and a combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic are available for the use of general practitioners free of charge on application to the Health Office.

**Influenza.** This is not a notifiable disease, consequently knowledge of its incidence is not very exact. Six deaths were certified as due to influenza, giving a death-rate of 0·06.

**Acute Poliomyelitis.** This disease is commonly called “infantile paralysis.” Cases are notified as “paralytic” or “non-paralytic.” “Paralytic” means that there are, or have been, signs of weakness or paralysis of muscles, either permanent or transient. “Non-paralytic” denotes that there have been no such signs.

5 cases were notified, equal to an attack-rate of 0·05—all classed as paralytic. All were treated in Harborough Road Hospital, where one—a boy nearly six years old—died.

**Dysentery.** The notifications of dysentery totalled 332, by far the highest number ever recorded in Northampton County Borough. 171 of these were stated to be Sonne dysentery, but it is likely that the bulk of the remainder were in fact also due to the Sonne bacillus, which is the cause of this mild form of the disease. Since the causal agent has to be eaten, the disease is highly preventable and could be eliminated completely by strict observance of personal hygiene. The disease is endemic in the country and Northampton endured its worst outbreak, the cases occurring mainly in the Kings Heath area.

No cases occurred in January; thereafter there were 150 in February, 101 in March, 31 in April, and a few cases in each of the remaining months of 1955. No cases with severe symptoms came to notice and there were no deaths. The epidemic, which first came to light on 1st February, 1955, was fortunately of a mild nature, characterised by diarrhoea and vomiting, or by diarrhoea alone with, in some instances, a mild headache.

Preventive measures introduced into the Kings Heath Schools (County Primary Junior and County Primary Infants) were:—

- (1) Exclusion of all children suspected to have had any abdominal upsets. These children were referred to their own doctors.
- (2) Medical certificates were requested from all children returning to school after absence to indicate that they were clear of infection. No child was re-admitted until three negative and consecutive stools had been obtained.



- (3) Hand washing. All children were compelled to wash their hands thoroughly each time they entered the school premises, *i.e.*, after each break. Particular emphasis was laid on the washing of the hands after toilet purposes.
- (4) Routine disinfection of classrooms and lavatories, etc.
- (5) School visits each morning by a health visitor and on most mornings by a medical officer.

Medical practitioners were circularised and approved faeces containers in stamped addressed envelopes were made available.

Parents were also circularised and given advice on personal cleanliness and a "clean hands" campaign was introduced into all the schools of the town.

From 15th February to 2nd May, 1955, an emergency school clinic, staffed by a health visitor and a medical officer, was held in the medical room of Kings Heath Junior School each morning between 9 and 10.30. This proved of great value.

No evidence was obtained that school meals played any part in the spread of infection, and no particular foodstuff was incriminated. The milk and water supplies proved free from infection.

Treatment was carried out by the general practitioners. There was constant contact between the doctors and the Health Department during this troublesome outbreak. Co-operation was excellent despite the fact that the preventive measures introduced resulted in extra, but necessary, work on the part of the general practitioners.

The Public Health Laboratory were worked to capacity during this outbreak and their help is gratefully acknowledged.

190 cases were confirmed bacteriologically, and 68 non-notified cases had positive faeces, so the total known cases in the County Borough were 400.

Amongst school children there were 150 positive cases, distributed over 28 schools.

It is hoped that the experience gained in this outbreak may help to prevent the future occurrence of a more serious infection. There is no doubt that hand hygiene is a prime necessity for the prevention of such outbreaks.

This dysentery outbreak was the subject of a special report prepared for the Health and Education Committees in May, 1955, by Dr. J. G. Hagan, Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Principal School Medical Officer, which was subsequently incorporated in the April, 1956, issue of the Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service.

**Erysipelas.** 23 cases of erysipelas were notified. The local attack-rate was 0.22.

**Smallpox.** One smallpox contact was under surveillance in Northampton County Borough during 1955.

**Vaccination against Smallpox.** Under the arrangements in accordance with the National Health Service there were 468 vaccinations (including 314 under one year of age) and 120 re-vaccinations during 1955. No cases were specially reported of generalised vaccinia or post-vaccinal encephalomyelitis, nor were there any deaths from other complications of vaccination.

In an effort to increase the infant vaccination "acceptance rate," a clinic for children under five years of age was held at St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre, commencing on 19th January, 1955. 73 of the children mentioned in the previous paragraph were vaccinated under this new scheme.

**Scarlet Fever.** 145 notifications of scarlet fever were received. The local attack-rate was 1.41. 31 of these cases were treated in Harborough Road Hospital.

**Diphtheria.** No cases of diphtheria were notified in 1955. This means that only one case (see page 53 of the 1952 Report) has been recorded in the County Borough in the last seven years. The last diphtheria death occurred in 1946.

**Immunisation against Diphtheria.** The number of children under five years of age immunised against diphtheria was 907; similarly, 138 children aged between five and fifteen were dealt with, making a total of 1,045 who completed the course during 1955. 822 children received reinforcing injections.

There is record that 3,637 children under five years of age, of an estimated population of 6,900 in this age-group, had completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December, 1955, equal to 52.7 per cent. In the age-group five to fourteen years inclusive the number immunised was 13,035 out of an estimated population of 15,700, or 83.0 per cent. Total for all children under fifteen years of age: 16,672 immunised out of an estimated population of 22,600, a percentage of 73.8 (immunity index 41.2). The immunity index is the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years.

Immunising material, including a combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic, is available to general practitioners free of charge on application to the Health Office.

**Pneumonia.** 53 notifications of primary or post-influenzal pneumonia were received. The local attack-rate was 0.52. 26 deaths were ascribed to pneumonia, giving a death-rate from this cause of 0.25.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.** 134 notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received. The attack-rate per thousand total births was 96.75. Only 54 of these cases were residents of Northampton County Borough. All but 3 of the women were treated in hospital. 127 of the confinements had taken place in institutions and 7 at home.



**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.** Two cases were notified in 1955. Except for one case in 1952, these are the only cases recorded in Northampton County Borough since 1947. Both babies were illegitimate. Gonococci were found in smears from the eyes in both cases, but it is satisfactory to know that the eyes cleared and no impairment of vision resulted.

**Venereal Diseases.** The Special Clinic for venereal diseases held at Northampton General Hospital is under the administrative control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

The times at which the clinics are held at Northampton General Hospital are given on page 22.

During 1955, new cases from Northampton County Borough totalled 111 (7 syphilis, 29 gonorrhoea, and 75 other conditions).

**Cancer.** The number of cancer deaths in Northampton during 1955 was 235, giving a local death-rate from this cause of 2.29; for England and Wales it was 2.06.

**Bacteriology.** Table 9, page 74, gives particulars of clinical bacteriology. All bacteriological work for the Health Department is done at the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton General Hospital.

**Disinfection.** The number of articles dealt with at the Disinfecting Station, St. Andrew's Road, was 368.

## VII.—TUBERCULOSIS

**General Remarks.** In the Annual Health Report 1954 attention was drawn to the fact that the majority of cases of tuberculosis are now curable and that many could have been prevented. Additional proof of the first part of this concept is given by the very welcome drop in the death-rate, which has been practically halved during 1955. Deaths have fallen from 24 to 13. Equally satisfactory is the reduction in the number of new cases which have been notified during the past year. When the 1952 mass X-ray survey was carried out the number of new notifications resulting from the examinations of cases by general practitioners, together with those referred by the Mass X-ray Unit, totalled 119. The comparable figure for 1955 is 96. As during each of these years approximately 35,000 people had X-rays of the chest, either at the Chest Diseases Clinic, the mass X-ray centres, or Northampton General Hospital, it is reasonable to assume that there has been a really substantial fall—nearly 20 per cent.—in the incidence of tuberculosis during this period. Many factors are responsible for this drop, but perhaps the most important single factor is the reduction in the number of infectious cases living in the Borough. By constant research and the application of the latest methods of treatment there are now only very few patients who remain infectious after treatment. In an attempt to reduce still further the number of infectious cases, over 1,000 former patients have been re-examined and their cases have been fully investigated. The result has been that many people formerly thought to be incurable have now been given further treatment with the latest



combination of drugs. In some cases when drug treatment was insufficient the infected lung has been removed. By such means a considerable number of infective and potentially dangerous people have been rendered uninfected ; some have even been able to return to work under ordinary conditions.

In the field of preventive medicine a very satisfactory start has been made in the programme of vaccinating with B.C.G. those children approaching school leaving age who have no acquired resistance to tuberculosis. The scheme for providing B.C.G. vaccination to all young contacts who have not been infected continues to work satisfactorily and the response is virtually 100 per cent. As statistics shew that the incidence of tuberculosis in young pregnant women is approximately four times as high as amongst the rest of the population, the consultant gynaecologists have recommended that all patients attending ante-natal clinics at the Barratt Home and St. Edmund's Hospital shall be advised to have radiographs of the chest. A similar recommendation has been sent to all general practitioners asking them to advise any pregnant woman on their lists to attend for a miniature X-ray of the chest.

At the present time the greatest number of new cases of tuberculosis are found amongst the group of people who are referred for miniature X-ray following a severe catarrhal or influenzal cold or on account of a vague feeling of ill-health, often with digestive disturbance but no definite symptoms pointing to respiratory disease. It is confidently anticipated that more infectious cases would be picked up if greater use were made of the static Mass Miniature X-ray Service centred at the St. Matthew's Parade Clinic.

At long last it looks as if the carefully planned and executed campaign against tuberculosis will eliminate this scourge. It is very little use planning a campaign of this nature, however, unless the general mass of the public can be persuaded to play their part. Already, however, a third of the population has responded to appeals. We shall not be satisfied until the response is 100 per cent.

Details of the sessions held at the Chest Clinic are given on page 22.

The following relates to some of the anti-tuberculosis work during 1955 :—

Consultations .....	2,768
New out-patients .....	2,354
Home contacts of new cases .....	309
Number of these contacts examined .....	288
Contacts examined of patients previously notified .....	641
Mantoux tests .....	989
X-ray examinations : Radiographic film .....	5,377
Fluorographic screen .....	203
A.P. (artificial pneumothorax) and P.P. (pneumoperitoneum) refills .....	217
Pathological specimens .....	1,314
Home visits : By nurses .....	776
By medical staff .....	100
Total number of attendances by patients .....	8,099



**Notifications.** (Tables 13 to 17, pages 78 to 80). During the year, 96 persons were notified for the first time as suffering from tuberculosis. Of these, 83 cases were respiratory and 13 non-respiratory. Their classification and age-groups are shewn in Tables 14 and 17. In addition, 26 cases already notified in other areas came into the County Borough.

Table 15 gives the occupations of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis.

**Deaths.** (Tables 13 to 17, pages 78 to 80). The number of deaths and the death-rates from tuberculosis per thousand of the population in 1955 were as follows :—

	NO. OF DEATHS	DEATH- RATES
Respiratory tuberculosis .....	12	0·12
Other forms .....	1	0·01
Totals .....	13	0·13

The total rate of 0·13 is easily the lowest on record for the County Borough.

The death-rate for all forms for England and Wales in 1955 was 0·15 (respiratory 0·13, other forms 0·02), which is also the lowest recorded.

Table 16 gives the total tuberculosis death-rates for Northampton and for England and Wales during the last ten years.

**Revision of Register.** The names of 20 notified persons were removed from the register in 1955, as the patients were regarded as having recovered.

On 31st December, 1955, there were 974 names on the Medical Officer of Health's register, 813 relating to respiratory and 161 to non-respiratory patients.

The number on the register of the Chest Clinic on that date was 849.

**Park Workers.** Three men were employed throughout the year on light duties under this scheme.

**Housing.** Housing has always been an important factor in the incidence and spread of tuberculosis. The co-operation of the Housing Committee in providing better living conditions, therefore, is invaluable. In December, 1955, the number of tuberculous persons living in Council houses was 380.

**Care Work.** The need for care work is apparent and much valuable help is provided by the Care Committee. An annual grant of £250 is made by the County Borough Council and this is augmented by the Christmas Seal Sale, voluntary donations, etc. The proceeds have been used to help patients and their families by providing clothing, bedding, footwear, extra nourishment, and medical comforts. In addition, the usual gifts were made at Christmas. Assistance given in other directions is mentioned in the paragraphs which follow.

**Extra Nourishment.** Extra nourishment in the form of milk was granted through the funds of the Care Committee to 58 patients.

**Almoner's Department.** New patients are interviewed by the Almoner at the Chest Clinic, who also sees patients at Creaton Sanatorium and gives help and advice in social and domestic difficulties. In this she is assisted by the Care Committee, who can help financially in ways not covered by statutory funds. With their help and that of Northampton Hospitals Guild, seven patients were able to have seaside holidays. Two other patients were given financial help towards a holiday by the Care Committee and made their own arrangements.

The Club and Handicrafts Class for patients not well enough to work met weekly as usual. The Care Committee gave the members, with other long-term patients, a Christmas party. The patients themselves from their own Club fund paid for outings to Bedford and Billing Aquadrome and for a visit to the New Theatre. Three patients left the Club during the year to return to work.

**Rehabilitation.** The Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour is always ready to help ex-patients to find suitable jobs and is usually successful in placing them satisfactorily. Details are given below of 38 patients known to the Chest Clinic to have returned to work during 1955 :—

Work found by the Ministry of Labour .....	8
Training arranged by the Ministry of Labour .....	1
New work found by patients themselves .....	10
Work resumed with former employers .....	18
Work found by Youth Employment Bureau .....	1
	—
Total .....	38
	—

**Mass Miniature Radiography.** The sixth survey held in Northampton County Borough by the Mass Radiography Unit extended over a period of twenty-eight weeks from January to July, 1955. The Unit operated under the control of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and most of the information given below has been extracted from the report issued by the Unit :—

#### DATE AND PLACE

3rd January to 18th July, 1955 (28 weeks).

Held at nineteen sites in Northampton County Borough and conducted by Oxford Regional Hospital Board No. 1 (Northants) Mass Radiography Unit.

#### RESPONSE

Firms ..... 67 per cent. (not strictly accurate as a large number of workers attended privately).



## SUMMARY OF WORK

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Number of miniatures taken.....	14,714	12,367	27,081
Number of large films taken .....	868	665	1,533
Number recalled for clinical examination .....	222	174	396
Number referred to Chest Clinic .....	103	66	169

## RESULTS OF CHEST CLINIC EXAMINATION

Found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis .....	47*
Presumably inactive pulmonary tuberculosis requiring clinic observation .....	61
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis requiring no further action ....	7
Non-tuberculous conditions .....	52
Failed to attend .....	1
Normal .....	1

Total number of persons referred to Chest Clinic ..... 169

\*46 of these 47 cases were newly discovered. They occurred in the following groups :—

Boot and shoe firms.

Other firms.

General public.

National Service entrants.

## COMPARISON

SURVEY	DATE	PERSONS EXAMINED	ACTIVE CASES FOUND		NEW CASES PER 1,000 EXAMINED
			TOTAL	NEW ONLY	
First	1945/6	14,544	79	76	5.22
Second	1946/7	12,242	36	34	2.78
Third	1947/8	12,585	25	25	1.99
Fourth	1949	13,493	29	27	2.00
Fifth	1952	27,962	55	55	1.97
Sixth	1955	27,081	47	46	1.70
Totals		107,907	271	263	2.44

**B.C.G. Vaccination.** During the year, 324 persons were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine. 184 of these were contacts and 140 school leavers.

**Tuberculosis Regulations, etc.** It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relate to persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

There was no case of compulsory removal to hospital, under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, of any person suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract who was in an infectious state and without proper lodging or accommodation and who was a serious risk of infection to other persons.

## VIII.—MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE

**Infant Mortality.** (Tables 18 and 19, pages 80 and 81). There were 24 deaths under one year of age, the infant mortality being 17·7 per thousand live births registered, which is the lowest rate ever recorded in Northampton County Borough. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 24·9, also a record. Table 18 gives the infant mortality for England and Wales and Northampton for the last ten years for comparison.

The infant deaths are classified by cause in Table 19.

**Neonatal Mortality.** 15 of the 24 deaths mentioned in the preceding paragraph were of infants under four weeks of age. The neonatal mortality per thousand live births was thus 11·1, compared with 16·6 in 1954.

The neonatal mortality for England and Wales was 17·3 in 1955.

**Notification of Births.** (Tables 20 and 21, pages 81 and 82). 1,353 live births were registered, the birth-rate being 13·2, compared with 15·0 for England and Wales. 32 stillbirths were also registered.

It is a statutory requirement under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for births to be notified within thirty-six hours to the Medical Officer of Health by any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after, the birth. This, of course, is in addition to registration.

2,475 live births and 82 stillbirths were notified, making a total of 2,557 (see Table 20). Table 21 shews the sources of notification.

1,337 births were investigated by the health visitors. The remaining births occurred either in larger houses, or the mothers, resident outside the County Borough, came here for their confinement and returned home later.

486 babies (including stillborn babies) were born of primiparæ.

**Stillbirths.** 32 stillbirths were registered, giving a rate of 0·31 per thousand of the population. The rate expressed per thousand total births (including stillbirths) registered was 23·1, the same as for England and Wales.

82 stillbirths were notified, 49 relating to mothers from surrounding areas. The remaining 33 stillbirths were investigated (see tabulation below). 12 of these occurred in primigravida. In 23 cases labour was premature.

### CAUSES OF STILLBIRTH

Maternal .....	6
Pre-eclampsia .....	3
Accidental hæmorrhage .....	2
Rhesus incompatibility .....	1
Fœtal .....	7
Anencephaly .....	4
Hydrocephaly .....	3



Cause unknown .....	10
Fœtus macerated .....	7
Fœtus fresh .....	3
Accidents of labour .....	10
Accidental hæmorrhage .....	1
Birth before arrival .....	1
Cord three times round neck .....	1
Difficult breech extraction .....	1
Forceps delivery for transverse arrest .....	1
Impacted twin .....	1
Post-maturity .....	1
Precipitate labour .....	1
Prolapsed cord .....	1
Short cord .....	1

A "stillborn child" is a child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother breathe or shew any sign of life.

**Health Visiting.** Eleven whole-time health visitors were on the staff at the end of 1955, which was eight below establishment. Their time was also partly devoted to work in the School Health Service and tuberculosis visiting under a co-ordinated scheme.

Their work is summarised below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

To expectant mothers :—

First visits .....	665
Total visits .....	898

To children under one year of age :—

First visits .....	1,312
Total visits .....	10,884

To children aged one and under two years :—

Total visits .....	3,248
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To children aged two but under five years :—

Total visits .....	6,198
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To tuberculous households :—

Total visits .....	731
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To other cases :—

Total visits .....	500
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To children under five years :—

Total number visited .....	6,508
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To families or households :—

Total number visited .....	5,285
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Doctors contacted by health visitors .....	94
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Health visitors contacted by doctors .....	12
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**Child Welfare Centres.** Table 22 (page 82) gives the average attendances and consultations at the fifteen child welfare centres.

A summary of the 1955 statistics is given below :—

Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority and who at their first attendance were under one year of age .....	1,026
Total number of children under five years of age who attended .....	3,269
Total attendances .....	37,919
Average number of children per weekly session .....	54
Average number of mothers per weekly session .....	46

**Voluntary Work.** Extracts from the report of the Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association are given below :—

The Mothers' Club, which meets on three evenings a week from September to April, continues with great success. A special class is held on the Thursday evening for expectant mothers.

A successful coffee morning and exhibition of the work done at the Club was held in December.

The speaker at the Annual Meeting in June, 1955, was Miss A. Scott, Head Teacher of the Open Air Recovery School. Her subject was "The Handicapped Child."

A delegate attended the Annual Conference of the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare in London.

Several mothers have received assistance from the Voluntary Association's Social Fund. Help has been provided in cases of illness and holidays arranged at the seaside.

The booklet "To Fathers and Mothers" is still given free to new mothers attending the centres.

**Maternity Homes.** There are three registered nursing homes in the County Borough (see list on page 25). Eight visits of inspection were paid to these homes by the Assistant Medical Officer.

**Midwives.** 39 midwives were employed in Northampton County Borough on 31st December, 1955, as follows :—

Queen's Institute of District Nursing (including 2 on administrative staff) .....	6
St. Edmund's Hospital .....	9
Barratt Maternity Home .....	20
Other maternity homes .....	4
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>39</b>

The Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing undertake domiciliary midwifery on behalf of the County Borough Council by agreement under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.



The Queen's Nurses attended 251 cases as maternity nurses during 1955.

**Administration of Inhalational Analgesics.** All the above midwives held a certificate of competence in the use of gas-air analgesic apparatus.

Out of the 251 cases attended by Queen's Nurses in 1955, analgesics were administered in 220 (87.6 per cent.). The Institute had six sets of apparatus in use.

**Ante-natal and Post-natal Work.** No regular ante-natal and post-natal care is given by the Local Authority; casual cases only are seen. 7 ante-natal and 4 post-natal cases were seen in 1955. 653 patients attended for blood tests.

Cases booked for home confinement receive ante-natal care at the Queen's Institute of District Nursing Clinics and are also seen by their family doctor. 1,972 attendances were made by 398 expectant mothers in 169 sessions during 1955.

All cases booked for confinement at the Barratt Maternity Home receive their ante-natal care at the Barratt Home Clinic; patients booked for St. Edmund's Maternity Unit attend the Ante-natal Clinic at that hospital; these Ante-natal Clinics are under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

**Maternal Mortality.** (Table 23, page 83). According to the tabulation received from the Registrar-General, no maternal deaths were assigned to Northampton County Borough during 1955. The maternal mortality per thousand total births for England and Wales was 0.64. Table 23 gives the rates for the last ten years for comparison.

**Dental Treatment.** (Table 24, page 83). Children under school age and expectant and nursing mothers are treated by the dental officer. One session each week is set apart for this work.

Table 24 shews the numbers dealt with during 47 sessions and the forms of treatment.

A qualified radiographer takes all radiographs. The dental officer examines them and on rare occasions seeks confirmation from Northampton General Hospital.

Dentures are made at a local prosthetic laboratory.

**Care of Premature Infants.** 108 premature infants (*i.e.*, babies weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lb. or less at birth) relating to mothers normally resident in Northampton County Borough were notified and were the subject of special investigations.

Of the 20 premature babies born at home, two were stillborn and four were transferred to hospital; 18 survived the first month of life.

Of the 88 born in hospital or nursing home, 20 were stillborn and 62 survived the first month of life.

These figures shew that 80 of the 86 (93·0 per cent.) of the County Borough premature babies born alive survived the first month.

Cots, bedding, blankets, hot water bottles, and clothing are available on loan for such infants nursed at home.

**Immunisation.** The number of children under five years of age who completed the full course of injections during the year was :—

Diphtheria .....	57
Combined diphtheria and whooping cough .....	793
Whooping cough .....	25

The above figures include those immunised by general practitioners as well as those dealt with at clinics under the maternity and child welfare scheme.

**Vaccination.** As mentioned on page 39, in an attempt to increase the infant vaccination "acceptance rate," a clinic for children under five years of age was held at St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre from 19th January, 1955, onwards. 73 children were vaccinated at this clinic during 1955.

**Care of Unmarried Mothers and Their Children.** There are no special arrangements, but each health visitor is responsible for those residing in her district and co-operates with voluntary agencies working in this field. Where desirable, the children are admitted to nurseries.

(See also "Admissions to Mother and Baby Homes" on page 63.)

**Day Nurseries.** The only day nursery (Spencer) has accommodation for 45 children under two years of age. The average attendance was 32 and at the end of the year there were 38 children on the register. 51 visits (including two medical inspections) were paid to this nursery by the Assistant Medical Officer and, in addition, all children were medically inspected before admission.

44 visits (including three medical inspections) were also paid to Rawlings Residential Nursery managed by the Children Committee.

**Nurseries and Child Minders.** At the end of 1955, three daily minders (providing for 22 children) were on the register kept under the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. Regular visits were paid by members of the staff.

**Distribution of Welfare Foods.** As stated in the last report, responsibility for the distribution of national dried milk, cod liver oil, vitamin A and D tablets, and orange juice was taken over by the Local Health Authority from the Local Office of the Ministry of Food on 28th June, 1954, in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 10/54 dated 7th April, 1954. Northampton County Borough Council's proposals under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, were modified accordingly and approved by the Minister of Health on 6th August, 1954.



Two female assistants operate the Main Distribution Centre (Covered Market, Sheep Street) and there is a part-time storeman, all three being members of the staff of the Health Department. In addition, voluntary workers distribute welfare foods at eleven outlying infant welfare centres. All ordering, accounting, etc., is carried out in the Health Department.

During 1955, the following quantities of welfare foods were issued to beneficiaries :—

COMMODITY	MAIN CENTRE	OUTLYING CENTRES	TOTAL
National dried milk (tins) .....	27,875	8,890	36,765
Cod liver oil (bottles) .....	9,774	3,966	13,740
Vitamin A and D tablets (packets) .....	4,192	1,017	5,209
Orange juice (bottles) .....	65,932	23,295	89,227

### IX.—MENTAL HEALTH

**Mental Deficiency—Ascertainment.** During 1955, fourteen new cases were notified from the following sources under the provisions of Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944, or Section 30 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 :—

Local Education Authority .....	10
Other sources .....	4
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>14</b>

These were dealt with as follows :—

Placed under statutory supervision .....	11
Placed under voluntary supervision .....	1
Admitted to hospital .....	2
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>14</b>

**Statistics.** There were 439 mental defectives on the register at 31st December, 1955 ; these were classed as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
In hospitals and homes .....	68	69	137
Under Guardianship Orders .....	1	1	2
Under statutory supervision .....	111	106	217
Under voluntary supervision .....	31	26	57
In " Places of Safety " .....	—	—	—
<b>County Borough cases</b> .....	<b>211</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>413</b>
On licence from hospitals (not North- ampton County Borough cases) ....	—	26	26
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>211</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>439</b>

**Supervision.** Local health authorities are responsible for the care of mentally defective persons, *i.e.*, their ascertainment, supervision, and training. The main source of ascertainment is the local education authority, though some cases come through other agencies, such as the health visitor, family doctor, etc.

Most mental defectives known to this Authority continue to live in their own homes and receive visits of supervision. Hospital accommodation is still urgently required for a number of cases. The majority of those awaiting admission are children who are either severely retarded or beyond the control of their parents. A smaller number of vacancies is required each year for older cases, who, owing either to their own deterioration or to changed family circumstances, can no longer be cared for at home.

Parents are encouraged to, and do, come to the Mental Health Officer for advice or assistance regarding their particular child or adult. It is important that those surrounding a mentally defective person should be helped to understand and deal with his nature, so that he may be given the best chance of developing.

**Licence.** At the end of the year, 9 male and 30 female patients were on licence from various hospitals.

These patients were supervised and periodically reported on to their appropriate authorities. The development of an adequate relationship between the patient and the Mental Health Officer is very important.

The following table indicates the type of work undertaken by patients on licence to Northampton County Borough from mental deficiency hospitals :—

	MALES	FEMALES
Domestic work in hospitals .....	—	28
Boot and shoe work .....	2	—
Gardening .....	2	—
Electrician's mate .....	1	—
Labouring (Corporation depot).....	1	—
Labouring (soap factory) .....	1	—
Laundry work .....	—	1
Private domestic service .....	—	1
Totals .....	7	30

Thanks are due to those employers who have willingly co-operated in providing opportunities for patients to have trial periods in work. This co-operation has been a great factor in efforts to befriend the defective by every means possible.

**Guardianship.** At the end of 1955, two cases were under Guardianship in accordance with Section 30 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.



**Hospital Accommodation.** Eight new cases were admitted to the following establishments :—

Manor House, Aylesbury .....	1
Pewsey Hospital, Wilts. ....	5
St. Edmund's Hospital, Northampton .....	1
Winslow Hospital, Bucks. ....	1
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>8</b>

Although local health authorities are responsible for the initial care, certification, and conveyance to hospitals of patients suffering from mental deficiency, the provision of accommodation is not their responsibility—a fact not generally realised.

Nine cases were urgently awaiting hospital care on 31st December, 1955; these were classed as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Children under 16 years .....	4	—	4
Adults (over 16 years) .....	1	4	5
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

These figures relate to mental defectives within the community and not to any mentally defective patients accommodated in St. Crispin Hospital, Duston, Northampton, under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930, who should be detained in mental deficiency institutions. At the end of the year, there were 28 cases (9 males, 19 females) in this hospital awaiting removal.

Patients with suitable homes were granted holiday leave at varying times throughout the year. A report on the suitability of the home to which the patient will proceed is usually submitted to the medical superintendent of the hospital where the patient is detained before holiday leave is granted.

One patient was admitted to a " Place of Safety " under Section 15, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as immediate hospital care was imperative.

Relatives of patients accommodated in the Pewsey and Borocourt Groups of hospitals find it very difficult, owing to the distance and high cost of travelling, to see them. To help in this difficulty, arrangements have been made to transport them by coach at a much reduced cost. This is planned to take place at regular intervals and relatives are very grateful for this assistance.

At the end of the year, 137 Northampton County Borough patients were accommodated at the following establishments :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Borocourt, near Reading (and ancillary hospitals) .....	9	14	23
Brentry Colony, Bristol .....	1	—	1
Bromham Hospital, near Bedford .....	24	14	38
Ellen Terry Home, Reigate .....	—	1	1

Hortham Hospital, Bristol .....	1	—	1
House of Help, Bath .....	—	3	3
Leavesden Hospital, Watford .....	1	—	1
Manor House, Aylesbury .....	2	4	6
Mount Tabor Approved Home, Wingrave .....	—	2	2
Pewsey Hospital, Wilts (and ancillary hospitals) .....	12	7	19
Princess Christian's Farm Colony, Hildenborough .....	1	1	2
Rampton Hospital, Retford .....	5	2	7
Rockhall House, Bath .....	—	1	1
St. Agnes' Approved Home, Caversham .....	1	—	1
St. Edmund's Hospital, Northampton ....	5	8	13
St. Francis' School, Buntingford .....	1	—	1
St. Margaret's Hospital, Birmingham ...	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Alton .....	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Buxted .....	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Painswick .....	—	1	1
Stoke Park Hospital, Bristol .....	4	4	8
Totterdown Hall, Weston-super-Mare ....	—	1	1
Whittington Hall, Chesterfield .....	—	3	3
Winslow Hospital, Bucks. ....	1	—	1
Totals .....	68	69	137

**Short-term Care in Cases of Urgency.** During 1955, four patients were admitted to establishments for varying periods of short-term care in accordance with the Council's amended proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

**Handicraft Centre.** Persons attending were as follows :—

	JUNIORS		SENIORS		TOTALS
	(under 16 years)		(over 16 years)		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
On register 1/1/55 .....	14	12	9	15	50
Admitted during 1955 ....	1	—	1	1	3
Left during 1955 .....	—	—	3	—	3
Attained 16 years .....	—	—5	—	+5	—
On register 31/12/55 .....	15	7	7	21	50

The average attendance throughout 1955 was 86·3 per cent.

Of the fifty on the register at the end of the year, two senior boys and ten senior girls attended in the afternoons only.

On 31st December, 1955, there was a waiting list of seventeen mentally handicapped persons (including two Northamptonshire County Council cases).

A party of 22 senior girls and mixed juniors, in the charge of the Supervisor and one staff member, stayed one week (23rd to 30th June, 1955) at Rhyl, at the home managed by the National Association for Mental



Health. The party travelled by coach. The weather was good and much time was spent on the beach. Visits to a circus, water gala, and fun fair completed a happy and beneficial week.

The annual outing was held on 19th July. Two coach loads, including Centre staff, children, parents, and friends, spent a good time at Southend.

The year ended with a Christmas party on 22nd December. This followed the usual pattern and was a great success. Thanks are due to many kind friends for gifts of money and kind and also to those who gave their time and help in various ways.

**Special School After-care Committee.** The Voluntary After-care Committee help and advise parents of educationally sub-normal children who are not notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

Domiciliary visits are paid to see the persons concerned, as well as their parents, and brief records of the visits are kept by the Honorary Secretary (Miss D. R. Harbard).

A representative of the Youth Employment Bureau serves on the Committee and gives practical advice and help in placing young persons in suitable employment.

A benevolent fund provides small gifts in times of sickness.

**Lunacy—Statistics.** The following summarises the work of this Mental Health Section during 1955 :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Examined by Doctor and Magistrate .....	4	8	12
Certified and removed to St. Crispin Hospital .....	4	6	10
Certified and removed to other hospitals	—	2	2
Cases examined by Magistrate .....	31	63	94
Admitted to St. Crispin Hospital on 14-Day Orders .....	27	53	80
No Order made .....	4	10	14
Admitted to St. Crispin Hospital on 3-Day Orders .....	23	15	38
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to St. Crispin Hospital (certified) .....	—	3	3
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to other hospitals (certified) .....	2	3	5
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to other hospitals (others) .....	2	4	6

During 1955 action under the Lunacy Acts had to be taken in the case of 41 persons (14 males and 27 females) over the age of sixty-five years who were admitted to St. Crispin Hospital. Of these, one female was admitted as a temporary patient under Section 5 of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

People of their own volition are accepting the treatment available to them and enter St. Crispin Hospital as voluntary patients. Most satisfactory results are achieved with the intensive efforts that are made to prevail upon appropriate cases to accept voluntary treatment. Admissions under compulsory powers are consequently few.

**Work in the Community.** The provision of prevention, care and after-care services under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has continued.

Recommendations relating to after-care of six males and six females were referred by the Physician Superintendent of St. Crispin Hospital during 1955. It was found necessary to re-admit one male and one female on Orders.

## X.—WELFARE

**Welfare Services.** The National Assistance Act, 1948, which came into operation on 5th July, 1948, made provision for comprehensive services falling into two main groups :—

- (1) National Assistance, taking the form chiefly of cash allowances to persons in need ;
- (2) Residential accommodation for the aged, the infirm, and others who require care and attention to be provided in this way, with special welfare services for the blind, partially sighted, deaf or dumb, and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury, or congenital deformity.

The assistance rendered under heading (1) is the concern of the National Assistance Board.

Local authorities are responsible for the services under heading (2) and for this purpose the following schemes made by Northampton County Borough Council under the Sections mentioned of the National Assistance Act, 1948, have been approved by the Minister of Health :—

SECTIONS	SCHEMES	DATES OF APPROVAL
21	Provision of residential accommodation	18-5-49
29 and 30	Provision of welfare services for blind persons and partially sighted persons	12-5-49 (amending scheme 18-6-55)
29 and 30	Provision of welfare services for deaf or dumb persons	20-1-55

The Council, however, decided on 6th December, 1954, to defer a draft scheme for the provision of welfare services for handicapped persons other than those in the classes mentioned above.

All matters relating to the discharge of the welfare functions of the Council under the National Assistance Acts stand referred to the Health Committee, who specially appoint a Welfare Services Sub-Committee (see page 13). These functions are discharged under the general adminis-



tration of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also designated Welfare Administrator. A Welfare Officer and two Assistant Welfare Officers are on the staff of the Health Department. The assistants are mainly concerned with blind welfare.

**Blind Persons.** At the end of 1955 the number of blind persons registered in Northampton County Borough was 254, classified as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Child under school age .....	1	—	1
At school for the blind .....	—	1	1
In homes for the blind .....	5	4	9
In other residential accommodation .....	1	3	4
In mental hospitals .....	3	2	5
In mental deficiency hospitals .....	1	3	4
In other hospitals .....	1	7	8
Mental defectives at home .....	2	—	2
Employed in open industry .....	19	2	21
Employed in sheltered industry .....	22	8	30
Training for open employment .....	—	1	1
Training for sheltered employment .....	1	—	1
Unemployed but capable of and available for work .....	1	1	2
Not available for employment .....	54	111	165
Totals .....	111	143	254

6 of the above were trained at St. Dunstan's and 49 were registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944.

53 men and 91 women (total 144) were over sixty-five years of age.

28 persons were newly registered as blind during 1955 after examination and certification by an ophthalmologist of consultant status. Registration is voluntary.

According to the definition in Section 64 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, "blind person" means a person so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential.

A handicraft class for the blind and partially sighted is held on Thursday afternoons at the Central Methodist Community Centre, Regent Square. 41 classes were held during 1955, at which there were 1,800 attendances (average attendance, 44). Outings to Oxford and Leamington Spa were arranged during the summer for persons attending the class and a Christmas party was enjoyed on 15th December, 1955.

**Partially Sighted Persons.** In the approved scheme under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, provision was made for the promotion of the welfare of partially sighted persons. Admission to the register is dependent upon a certificate from an ophthalmologist. Regis-

tration is voluntary. The register contained the names of 29 persons on 31st December, 1955, made up as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Class A—Persons near and prospectively blind (aged 16 years and over) .....	4	14	18
Class B—Persons mainly industrially handicapped (16 years and over) .....	2	2	4
Class C—Persons requiring observation only (16 years and over) .....	2	3	5
Class D—Children aged 5 and under 16 years .....	1	—	1
Other (child under 5 years) .....	—	1	1
Totals .....	9	20	29

8 of the above persons were newly registered as partially sighted during 1955.

The sight of three partially sighted persons deteriorated and they were certified as blind during the year.

Persons appropriate for designation as “ partially sighted ” are those who, although not blind within the meaning of Section 64 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, are nevertheless certified after examination to be substantially and permanently handicapped by congenitally defective vision ; or to be suffering from defective vision of a substantial and permanently handicapping character caused by illness or injury , or, in the case of children, to have such bad vision that they cannot follow the ordinary school curriculum without detriment to their sight or to their educational development, but can be educated by special methods involving the use of sight.

**Incidence of Blindness.** (Tables 25 and 26, page 84) In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 dated 22nd January, 1953, and subsequent circulars, Table 25 is inserted giving information as to the incidence of blindness with particular reference to the treatment of cataract and glaucoma in old people.

There were no cases of retrolental fibroplasia among premature infants.

Two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified in 1955. Vision was not impaired in either instance.

Table 26 shews the number of blind and partially sighted persons registered in Northampton County Borough on various dates since blind welfare was undertaken by the Local Authority under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

**Deaf or Dumb Persons.** A scheme under Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the provision of welfare services for the deaf or dumb was approved by the Minister of Health on 20th January, 1955. For the discharge of the Council's functions under this scheme, the Northamptonshire and Rutland Mission to the Deaf carry out



these duties on an agency basis for the Local Authority. An annual grant of £500 is being made to the Mission for a period of three years commencing 1st April, 1955.

The persons to whom the scheme applies can be divided into two groups, viz :—

- (1) *The deaf.* This class (often described as the “ deaf and dumb ”) includes persons who were born deaf and also persons who lost their hearing so early in life that they have little or no recollection of sound and have had to be educated in the same way as those who were born deaf. Few succeed in acquiring the use of normal speech. The great majority use only a manual sign language or a combination of signs and restricted speech, in which the power of self-expression is limited and in any case varies considerably with the individual. Many are unable to read fluently and can do no more than gather the general substance of simple printed matter.
- (2) *The hard of hearing.* These have lost their hearing wholly or in part after acquiring ordinary speech and after being educated as hearing persons.

Registration is voluntary. The numbers on the registers on 31st December, 1955, were as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Deaf .....	31	25	56
Hard of hearing .....	5	4	9
	—	—	—
Totals .....	36	29	65
	—	—	—

**Epileptics and Spastics.** The list of handicapped pupils on page 102 includes 4 epileptics (2 boys, 2 girls) and 12 scholars (9 boys, 3 girls) suffering from cerebral palsy.

The Spastic Unit at the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home is referred to on page 99.

Apart from two women in epileptic colonies and one epileptic male in Part III. Accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital, no other cases are known to the Welfare Sub-Department. However, when a scheme for handicapped persons other than the blind, partially sighted, and deaf or dumb is in operation in this County Borough, no doubt further epileptics will come to light.

**Residential Accommodation.** For clarity, this subject is treated under appropriate headings :—

(1) *Controlled by the Local Authority*

(a) **ST. EDMUND'S HOSPITAL.** St. Edmund's Hospital, a former public assistance “ mixed ” institution and since the “ appointed day ” (5th July, 1948) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, a joint user establishment, is the only Part III. Accommodation controlled by Northampton County Borough Council. The larger users of the premises are the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, in whom the property is vested.

Accommodation is now provided there for 77 persons.

70 persons (44 men, 20 women, 4 boys, and 2 girls) were in residence on 1st January, 1956. Of these, 1 man, the responsibility of the Local Authority, was accommodated in the hospital section owing to lack of a suitable ground floor room.

The standard charge is £4 4s. 0d. per week.

As there is no "family unit" accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital is used for this purpose, which means that the old poor law procedure of separating man and wife, parents and children, is still necessary.

Residents are encouraged to work in the hospital and provision is made for them to receive a monetary recompense not exceeding 10s. 6d. per week for performing this work.

A chiropody service is available free of charge for residents in Part III. Accommodation.

(b) **KINGS HEATH HOME OF REST.** Reference was made in the last annual report to the completion of this Home early in 1955.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayoress (Mrs. J. V. Collier) on 6th May, 1955.

Accommodation is provided for 33 aged persons (16 men and 17 women). On 1st January, 1956, there were 15 men and 17 women in residence.

The standard charge is £5 5s. 0d. per week.

As at St. Edmund's Hospital, a chiropody service is available and residents receive monetary reward for work in the Home.

The final cost for the erection and furnishing of this Home is likely to be in the region of £44,600.

(c) **"BARNFIELD," 127 HARLESTONE ROAD.** Reference was made in the last annual report to the conversion and adaptation of "Barnfield" to accommodate 26 aged men and women.

The adaptation is in hand and it is hoped that the premises will be occupied during 1956.

The cost of acquisition was £4,700; adaptations will cost approximately £7,900.

(d) **"THE PRIORY," 260 BILLING ROAD EAST.** The present use of "The Priory" as the Northampton Remand Home will cease as from 31st March, 1956, and the Health Committee have decided to take over the property, with furnishings and fittings, as suitable for use as an old persons' home. The building stands in its own grounds of 2.33 acres.

There is accommodation for 24 aged men and it is hoped that the premises will be ready for partial occupation by June, 1956.

The transfer value of the property was £8,000; adaptations will cost approximately £1,800.



(e) NOS. 9, 10, AND 11 ST. GEORGE'S AVENUE. These properties have been acquired for £2,882 by Compulsory Purchase Order made under Section 58 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the provision of residential accommodation under Part III. of the Act.

There is accommodation for approximately 40 aged men and women, together with a small staff, and it is anticipated that the property will be ready for occupation in 1957

(f) WAITING LIST. On 31st December, 1955, 31 men and 24 women (total 55) were awaiting admission to Part III. Accommodation. 17 of these were at St. Crispin Hospital, 20 at St. Edmund's Hospital, 10 in other hospitals, and 8 at home.

(2) *Not controlled by the Local Authority*

(a) NAZARETH HOUSE. This establishment is situated within Northampton County Borough.

Arrangements are in operation under Section 26 (1) of the National Assistance Act, 1948, whereby twelve beds at Nazareth House are available for residential accommodation of persons in need of care and attention. The County Borough Council pay an agreed sum per head per week, less payments made by the residents.

Six men and six women were in residence under this scheme on 1st January, 1956.

(b) OLD PERSONS' HOMES OUTSIDE NORTHAMPTON. This accommodation is mostly for the convenience of the persons concerned.

On 1st January, 1956, the Council had undertaken financial responsibility for residents in the following homes :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
British Legion Crosfield House, Bwlch ....	1	—	1
British Legion Halsey House, Cromer ....	1	—	1
Christadelphian Rest Home, Southport ....	1	—	1
Danetre Hospital, Daventry .....	1	—	1
Green Pastures, Winterdyne, Bewdley ....	—	1	1
Pentecostal Eventide Home, Bakewell ....	—	1	1
"Rossmore," Leamington Spa .....	—	1	1
St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering .....	1	—	1
Salvation Army Home, Netherfield House, Stanstead Abbots.....	1	—	1
Salvation Army Home, "Oakfield," Radcliffe-on-Trent .....	—	1	1
Salvation Army Home, Wicksted Hall, Whitchurch .....	1	—	1
The Dales, Upper Sheringham .....	—	1	1
The Priory, West Worthing .....	1	—	1
Totals .....	8	5	13

(c) SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION. On 1st January, 1956, the Council had accepted responsibility for handicapped persons in the following homes :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
“Wardington Court” Home for the Blind, Northampton .....	2	—	2
“Darsdale” Home for the Blind, Raunds .....	—	3	3
Chalfont Colony for Epileptics .....	—	1	1
David Lewis Manchester Epileptic Colony .....	—	1	1
Red House Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells .....	—	1	1
Roper House for the Deaf, Canterbury ...	—	1	1
Totals .....	2	7	9

(d) HOMES FOR DISABLED AND OLD PERSONS. For convenience and reference a list is given below of residential accommodation in Northampton County Borough for old and handicapped persons :—

HOME	ACCOMMODATION
Nazareth House, Kingsthorpe Road	28 disabled and old persons (9 men, 19 women)
Oakwood Home, 8 The Drive .....	11 old persons, either sex
“Roseland,” 41 Park Avenue South	12 old persons, either sex
St. Christopher’s, Abington Park Crescent .....	32 old persons, either sex
St. George’s Homestead, 25/26 St. George’s Avenue .....	22 aged women
“The Briers,” 69 Collingwood Road	9 old persons, either sex
“Wardington Court” Home for the Blind, Welford Road .....	20 disabled and old persons, either sex

These seven homes, with accommodation for 134 persons, are all registered under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Two other homes are exempt from registration, viz :—

HOME	ACCOMMODATION
Bethany Homestead, Kingsley Road	In cottages : 30-40 persons In rest rooms : 15 persons
Methodist Homestead, Homestead Way .....	In cottages : 20 persons

There is thus residential accommodation in these two homesteads for 65 to 75 persons.



(3) *Total Accommodation available in Northampton*

	PLACES
Provided or controlled by the Local Authority :—	
Kings Heath Home of Rest .....	33
Part III. Accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital	77
Provided by Voluntary Organisations, etc. :—	
7 registered homes .....	134
2 homesteads exempt from registration .....	65—75
GRAND TOTAL .....	309—319

(4) *Adaptation of Small Homes*

During the last seven years, 29 properties have been inspected with a view to their adaptation and use for residential accommodation.

The County Borough Council made Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of two of these properties, viz : “ Barnfield,” 127 Harlestone Road, and Nos. 9, 10, and 11 St. George's Avenue, Northampton. (See pages 59 and 60).

General experience has demonstrated the scarcity in Northampton of property suitable for adaptation as old persons' homes, mainly owing to the smallness of the buildings and excessive cost of alteration.

**Meals for Aged Persons.** The “ meals on wheels ” service, provided under Section 31 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, was inaugurated in September, 1950. The Women's Voluntary Services, on behalf of the Local Authority, deliver the meals on two days a week—Tuesdays and Thursdays. Different areas are served on the two days, thus enabling more old people to participate. The recipients paid ninepence per meal and the Local Authority subsidised to the extent of one shilling per meal.

During 1955 the number of meals served on 95 days was 3,139 (weekly average, 66). The cost to the Local Authority was £156 19s. 0d.

**Persons in Need of Care and Attention.** In order to avoid delay which would be likely to occur in dealing with urgent cases under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the powers and duties of the Council in this respect have been delegated to the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Health Committee. (Council minute 6-12-48).

Further, the Medical Officer of Health has been authorised to make application to a court of summary jurisdiction or to a single justice of the peace and to take all necessary steps in accordance with the expedited procedure under Section 1 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. (Council minute 7-4-52).

Action was taken in only one case during 1955.

**Burial of the Dead.** During 1955, it was necessary for the Local Authority to arrange five burials in accordance with Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

**Temporary Protection of Property.** A store at the rear of 87 Newland has been provided to meet the obligations of the Local Authority under Section 48 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to take reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to movable property of persons admitted to hospital, etc.

These premises are also utilised for the storage of bedsteads, bedding, etc., in connection with temporary accommodation reserved at certain buildings in the County Borough to meet exceptional circumstances, such as flooding, or to provide shelter for other persons in urgent need in circumstances which cannot reasonably be foreseen, in accordance with Section 21 (1) (b) of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

**Admissions to Mother and Baby Homes.** The Welfare Officer investigated two applications for admission to mother and baby homes under Section 21, National Assistance Act, 1948, and Section 22, National Health Service Act, 1946. Both girls were approved for admission, the Council undertaking to contribute some part of the cost of maintenance for a period not exceeding twelve weeks, *i.e.*, approximately four weeks before confinement, two weeks lying-in period, and six weeks afterwards. Eventually, however, both girls had their babies at St. Edmund's Hospital.



## XI.—STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE 1. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1946—1955.  
LIVE BIRTH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales .....	19·1	20·5	17·9	16·7	15·8	15·5	15·3	15·5	15·2	15·0
Northampton .....	20·5	21·9	17·5	15·8	14·2	14·6	14·1	14·5	13·4	13·2

TABLE 2. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1946—1955.  
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL  
LIVE BIRTHS.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales .....	6·6	5·3	5·4	5·1	5·1	4·8	4·6	4·6	4·6	4·5
Northampton .....	7·1	5·3	6·0	5·4	5·7	5·8	5·5	5·6	6·4	6·3

TABLE 3. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1946—1955.  
DEATH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales .....	11·5	12·0	10·8	11·7	11·6	12·5	11·3	11·4	11·3	11·7
Northampton .....	12·0	12·3	11·5	12·1	12·0	13·6	11·8	12·9	11·9	12·0

TABLE 4. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955. METEOROLOGICAL DATA.

MONTH	RAINFALL			Days on which 0.01 in. or more fell	TEMPERATURE				DIRECTION OF WIND					
	Total Inches	Greatest in 24 hours			Mean	Maximum		Minimum		No. of Nights at or below 32 deg. F.	SW. Quadrant including W. days	SE. Quadrant including S. days	NE. Quadrant including E. days	NW. Quadrant including N. days
		Depth	Date			Deg.	Date	Deg.	Date					
January .....	2.11	0.50	4	16	38.5	53.0	30	16.0	19	17	5	10	9	7
February .....	1.84	0.29	4	16	33.3	53.5	1	15.0	27	22	3	3	10	12
March .....	2.16	0.50	26	12	37.2	58.0	25	23.0	1	24	3	5	13	10
April .....	0.78	0.20	7	11	49.7	65.5	19	34.5	23	—	13	4	7	6
May .....	4.92	0.88	26	20	49.9	71.0	30	31.5	17	1	15	1	10	5
June .....	3.74	1.82	8	14	57.7	76.0	6	38.0	9	—	7	6	7	10
July .....	0.20	0.20	3	1	64.0	89.0	17	46.0	1	—	3	—	24	4
August .....	0.35	0.07	10	9	65.0	82.0	22	42.0	7	—	4	4	12	11
September .....	1.57	0.38	13	11	56.8	76.0	2	40.0	17	—	12	3	—	15
October .....	1.81	0.43	5	13	47.4	67.0	8	24.0	31	8	6	3	2	20
November .....	1.57	0.65	5	15	43.0	58.0	5	27.0	15	6	4	10	5	11
December .....	2.02	0.35	15	21	41.9	57.0	28	24.0	19	9	15	6	2	8
Year 1955 .....	23.07	1.82	June 8	159	48.7	89.0	July 17	15.0	Feb. 27	87	90	55	101	119



TABLE 5. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.  
SUMMARY OF ROUTINE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

NATURE OF VISIT, INSPECTION, ETC.	Number of Visits, etc.
<i>General Sanitation</i>	
Water supply .....	114
Drainage .....	271
Stables and piggeries .....	1
Offensive trades .....	4
Common lodging houses .....	5
Houses let in lodgings .....	3
Tents, vans, sheds, etc. ....	8
Factories .....	51
Workplaces .....	4
Outworkers .....	5
Bakehouses .....	17
Public conveniences .....	2
Cinemas, theatres, etc. ....	2
Accumulations of refuse, etc. ....	2
Rodent control .....	1696
Smoke abatement .....	106
Schools .....	2
Shops .....	6
Swimming baths .....	9
Canal boats .....	0
Miscellaneous sanitary visits .....	434
<i>Housing</i>	
Under Public Health Acts :—	
Houses inspected .....	383
Visits and revisits .....	2096
Under Housing Acts :—	
Houses inspected .....	67
Visits and revisits .....	185
Overcrowding :—	
Houses inspected .....	72
Visits and revisits .....	101
New cases of overcrowding discovered .....	9
Miscellaneous housing visits .....	290
<i>Disinfestation</i>	
Verminous houses treated .....	43
Visits and revisits to above houses .....	191
Anti-fly treatment of shops and other premises .....	2
Visits and revisits to above premises .....	2
<i>Notifiable Diseases</i>	
Inquiries into cases .....	284
Visits re disinfection .....	11
Miscellaneous visits .....	26

*Continued on next page.*

TABLE 5—continued.

NATURE OF VISIT, INSPECTION, ETC.	Number of Visits, etc.
<i>Meat and Food Inspection</i>	
Inspection of meat :—	
Visits to slaughterhouses .....	3512
Visits to shops and stalls .....	10
Visits to other premises .....	19
Visits to :—	
Butchers .....	25
Fishmongers and poulterers .....	24
Fried fish shops .....	2
Grocers .....	93
Greengrocers and fruiterers .....	9
Dairies and milk distributors .....	39
Ice cream premises .....	346
Food preparing premises .....	21
Licensed premises .....	0
Market stalls .....	88
Restaurants .....	3
Street vendors and hawkers .....	0
Miscellaneous food visits .....	215
Seizure certificates issued .....	0
Surrender notes issued .....	2960
<i>Samples Taken</i>	
Food and drugs .....	8
Pasteurised milk for phosphatase test .....	324
Milk for methylene blue test .....	326
Sterilised milk for turbidity test .....	34
Milk for tubercle bacilli .....	2
Ice cream .....	10
Other food for bacteriological examination .....	16
Fertilisers and feeding stuffs .....	0
Swimming bath water .....	21
Water from Town mains .....	112
Water from wells .....	0
<i>Notices Served</i>	
Informal notices :—	
Served .....	302
Complied with .....	143
Outstanding at end of year .....	21
Statutory notices :—	
Served .....	200
Complied with .....	157
Outstanding at end of year .....	120
<i>Summary</i>	
Total number of inspections and visits .....	10829



TABLE 6. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)  
ACT, 1953. HOUSES REPRESENTED DURING 1955.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION AND CONDITION AT END OF 1955.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Albert Street, 5	30-6-55	C. 4-10-55	Occupied
Ash Street, 29	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Vacant
Bath Street, 32	7-6-55	C. 30-6-55	Vacant
Chapel Place, 25A	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Occupied
Devonshire Street, 14	1-11-55	—	Occupied
Francis Street, 7	8-2-55	C. 5-4-55	Occupied
Francis Street, 9	8-2-55	C. 5-4-55	Occupied
Gas Street, 21	7-6-55	C. 30-6-55	Vacant
Grafton Place, 5	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant
Grafton Place, 7	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Occupied
Grafton Place, 9	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Occupied
Grafton Place, 11	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Occupied
Grafton Place, 13	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Occupied
Grafton Street, 57	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Vacant
Grafton Street, 59	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Occupied
Gregory Street, 39	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Gregory Street, 41	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Harborough Road, 44	30-6-55	D. 4-10-55	Occupied
Harborough Road, 46	30-6-55	D. 4-10-55	Vacant
Harborough Road, 64	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied
Harborough Road, 193	6-9-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied
Harborough Road, 195	6-9-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied
Harborough Road, 197	6-9-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied
Herbert Street, 16	1-11-55	—	Occupied
Herbert Street, 39	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Occupied
Horsemarket, 54	30-6-55	—	Occupied
Kettering Road, 20	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Occupied
Kingswell Street, 46	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant
Kingswell Street, 48	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant
Kingswell Street, 50	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant
Mount Gardens, 20	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied

C.=Closing Order ;

D.=Demolition Order.

*Continued on next page.*

TABLE 6—*continued.*

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Priory Terrace, 2	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Occupied
Priory Terrace, 3	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Vacant
Priory Terrace, 4	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Occupied
Priory Terrace, 5	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Occupied
Priory Terrace, 6	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Occupied
Priory Terrace, 7	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Occupied
Priory Terrace, 8	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Occupied
Priory Terrace, 9	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Vacant
Priory Terrace, 10	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Vacant
Regent Street, 8	8-2-55	C. 7-6-55	Vacant
Riding, 46	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Occupied
Riding, 47	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant
Riding, 48	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant
St. George's Street, 51	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied
St. John's Place, 18	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Occupied
Scarletwell Street, 13	7-6-55	C. 4-10-55	Occupied
Upper Harding Street, 49	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied
Vicarage Lane, 28	30-6-55	C. 4-10-55	Occupied
Wellingborough Road, Cottage rear of 163	11-1-55	C. 8-2-55	Used as store
Wellingborough Road, Cottage rear of 165	11-1-55	C. 8-2-55	Used as store

C.=Closing Order ;

D.=Demolition Order.



TABLE 7. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1948—1955.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)  
 ACT, 1953. HOUSES REPRESENTED PRIOR TO 1955.  
 SUBSEQUENT ACTION AND CONDITION AT END OF 1955.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Arundel Street, 47	5-10-54	C. 8-2-55	Vacant
Augustine Street, 21	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Vacant
Campbell Street, 11	7-9-54	C. 2-11-54	Demolished
Campbell Street, 13	7-9-54	C. 2-11-54	Demolished
Campbell Street, 17	1-6-54	C. 29-6-54	Demolished
Campbell Street, 19	9-12-53	C. 3-2-54	Demolished
Campbell Street, 23	9-12-53	C. 3-2-54	Demolished
Campbell Street, 25	7-9-54	C. 2-11-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 5	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 6	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 7	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 8	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 9	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 10	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 11	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 12	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Lane, 13	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 1	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 2	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 3	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 4	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 5	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 6	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 7	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 8	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Chalk Place, 9	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Compton Street, 30	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 32	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 34	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 36	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 42	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 44	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 57	4-7-51	D. 4-2-52	Vacant

C.=Closing Order ;

D.=Demolition Order.

*Continued on next page.*

TABLE 7—*continued.*

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Crispin Street, 19	9-12-53	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Crispin Street, 19A	9-12-53	D. 3-3-54	Vacant
Devonshire Street, 51 Main Road	2-11-54	C. 7-12-54	Vacant
(Far Cotton), 17	8-7-53	D. 9-9-53	Vacant
Manor Road, 61	5-10-54	C. 7-12-54	Vacant
Monks Pond Street, 18	5-5-54	D. 29-6-54	Occupied
Monks Pond Street, 20	5-5-54	C. 29-6-54	Occupied
Regent Square, 25	3-3-54	D. 7-4-54	Demolished
Regent Square, 26	3-3-54	D. 7-4-54	Demolished
Regent Square, 27	3-3-54	D. 7-4-54	Demolished
Regent Square, 28	3-3-54	D. 7-4-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 7	7-4-54	D. 5-5-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 9	7-4-54	D. 5-5-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 10	2-11-54	C. 7-12-54	Vacant
Regent Street, 11	7-4-54	D. 1-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 13	7-4-54	D. 1-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 14	1-6-54	C. 29-6-54	Used as store
Regent Street, 15	7-4-54	C. 1-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 18	1-6-54	C. 29-6-54	Vacant
Regent Street, 24	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Vacant
Regent Street, 26	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 28	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 30	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 32	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 33	7-4-54	D. 1-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 34	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 35	7-4-54	D. 1-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 36	1-6-54	—	Demolished
Regent Street, 37	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Demolished
Regent Street, 38	3-2-54	C. 3-3-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 39	7-4-54	D. 5-5-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 41	7-4-54	D. 5-5-54	Vacant
Regent Street, 43	7-4-54	D. 5-5-54	Vacant
Regent Street, 44	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Vacant
Regent Street, 46	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Vacant
Regent Street, 48	1-6-54	—	Vacant
Regent Street, 50	1-6-54	—	Vacant

C.=Closing Order ;

D.=Demolition Order.

*Continued on next page.*



TABLE 7—*continued.*

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
St. Andrew's Street, 17	6-1-54	C. 3-2-54	Vacant
St. George's Street, 45	7-9-54	C. 7-12-54	Used as store
St. George's Street, 62	3-3-54	C. 7-4-54	Occupied
St. George's Street, 63	3-3-54	C. 7-4-54	Occupied
St. James' Square (St. James), 5	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Vacant
St. James' Square (St. James), 6	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Vacant
St. John's Street, 60	7-4-54	C. 7-12-54	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 17	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 19	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 20	2-6-48	D. 26-7-48	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 21	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 22	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 24	3-3-48	D. 3-5-48	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 36	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 38	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 40	2-6-48	D. 26-7-48	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 54	25-2-53	D. 6-5-53	Demolished
Swan Street, 66	2-11-49	D. 30-1-50	Vacant
Swan Street, 68	2-11-49	D. 30-1-50	Vacant
Upper Cross Street, 2	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Upper Cross Street, 4	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Upper Cross Street, 6	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Upper Cross Street, 8	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant

C.=Closing Order ;

D.=Demolition Order.

TABLE 8. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—*Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors for purposes of provisions as to health.*

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority .....	75	4	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	605	46	—	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises, but including electrical stations, institutions, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction) .....	22	1	—	—
TOTALS .....	702	51	—	—

2.—*Cases in which defects were found.*

Particulars	Number of defects				Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	13	11	—	14	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .....	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS .....	13	11	—	15	—

*Continued on next page.*



TABLE 8—continued.

## 3.—Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list	Cases of default in sending lists	Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making, etc., of wearing apparel .....	137	—	—	—	—	—
Other .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	137	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 9. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY. SUMMARY OF REPORTS.

DIPHTHERIA— Throat and Nose Secretions				TYPHOID, DYSENTERY, ETC.— Fæces, etc.				OTHER CONDITIONS				TOTALS			
Suspected Cases	Reports received			Suspected Cases	Reports received			Suspected Cases	Reports received			Suspected Cases	Reports received		
	Positive	Negative	Total		Positive	Negative	Total		Positive	Negative	Total		Positive	Negative	Total
2	—	4	4	1165	738	1942	2680	1	1	—	1	1168	739	1946	2685

TABLE 10. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

NATURE OF FOOD	WEIGHT			
	TONS	CWT.	QR.	LB.
Beef, home killed .....	13	10	0	27
Beef, imported .....	1	8	0	10
Mutton, home killed .....	—	15	2	23
Mutton, imported .....	—	—	2	20
Offal, home killed .....	37	12	3	0
Offal, imported .....	—	8	2	13
Pork, home killed .....	3	2	1	12
Veal, home killed .....	—	3	0	14
Bacon .....	—	1	1	9
Cheese .....	—	5	2	15
Confectionery .....	—	1	3	12
Fish, wet .....	1	2	1	3
Fruit, dried .....	—	—	1	22
Ham, cooked .....	—	—	1	19
Liquid egg .....	—	—	1	1
Poultry .....	—	—	—	14
Prepared meat products .....	—	1	3	17
Sugar .....	—	—	1	6
Total .....	58	16	0	13

8,810 tins and jars of food were also surrendered.

2,960 surrender notes were issued in connection with the above unsound food.

There were no seizures.



TABLE 11. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	CATTLE, EX- CLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS	TOTALS
Number killed .....	10,720	3,229	2,993	48,510	18,882	84,334
Number inspected .....	10,720	3,229	2,993	48,510	18,882	84,334
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned .....	6	11	4	28	22	71
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .....	2,882	989	9	327	1,212	5,419
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	26.9	31.0	0.4	0.7	6.5	6.5
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned .....	7	13	—	—	1	21
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .....	655	523	—	—	422	1,600
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	6.2	16.6	—	—	2.2	1.9

TABLE 12. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## FOOD AND DRUGS. SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS.

NATURE OF SAMPLE	FORMAL SAMPLES		INFORMAL SAMPLES	
	TOTAL NUMBER	NO. NOT GENUINE	TOTAL NUMBER	NO. NOT GENUINE
Margarine .....	—	—	3	—
Margarine containing 10 per cent. butter .....	—	—	3	1*
Pork sausages .....	—	—	2	—
Totals .....	—	—	8	1*

\* The action taken regarding this defaulting sample is recorded on page 36.



TABLE 13. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1946—1955.

## TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

YEARS	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
	RESPIR- ATORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTALS	RESPIR- ATORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTALS
1946	121	26	147	49	7	56
1947	100	20	120	42	11	53
1948	98	7	105	42	1	43
1949	99	17	116	36	2	38
1950	76	18	94	28	10	38
1951	92	18	110	31	5	36
1952	103	16	119	26	4	30
1953	69	14	83	21	4	25
1954	61	12	73	21	3	24
1955	83	13	96	12	1	13

TABLE 14. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## TUBERCULOSIS. CLASSIFICATION OF NEW CASES.

CLASSIFICATION	NOTIFIED CASES			DEATHS OF CASES NOT NOTIFIED		
	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL
RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS ....	50	33	83	—	—	—
OTHER FORMS :—						
Meninges and Brain .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Peritoneum and Intestines ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bones and Joints .....	3	2	5	—	—	—
Cervical Glands .....	1	2	3	—	—	—
Other Organs .....	1	3	4	—	—	—
Totals .....	56	40	96	—	—	—

TABLE 15. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE.

OCCUPATION	NEW CASES	OCCUPATION	NEW CASES
Shoe Operatives :—			
(a) Clicker .....	4	Fitter (engineering).....	1
(b) Laster .....	1	Fruiterer .....	1
(c) Finisher .....	2	Housewife .....	12
(d) Roughstuff and Pressman .....	—	Inspector (engineering)	1
(e) Warehouse and General .....	8	Labourer .....	1
(f) Female Worker ....	6	Leather Worker .....	1
	21	Machinist (engineering)	1
Accountant .....	1	Metal Polisher .....	1
Barman .....	1	Minister .....	1
Blacksmith .....	1	Motor Mechanic .....	1
Caretaker .....	1	Nurse .....	1
Carpenter .....	1	Omnibus Conductor .....	2
Chrome Polisher .....	1	Plaster Worker .....	1
Cleaner .....	1	School Child .....	3
Clerk .....	7	School Meals Worker .....	1
Dress Machinist .....	2	Signalman .....	1
Electrical Superintendent	1	Surgical Appliances Maker	1
Engineer .....	1	Warehouseman .....	1
Ex-Army .....	2	Wood Machinist .....	1
Ex-Navy .....	1	No Occupation .....	7
		Not Ascertained .....	1
		Total .....	83

TABLE 16. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1946—1955.

## TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNIIUM.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales .....	0.54	0.55	0.51	0.45	0.36	0.31	0.24	0.20	0.18	0.15
Northampton .....	0.55	0.51	0.41	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.29	0.24	0.23	0.13



TABLE 17. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## TUBERCULOSIS. AGE GROUPS FOR NEW CASES AND DEATHS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years .....	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10 years .....	—	1	1	1	}	—	—	1
10—15 years .....	1	—	—	1		—	—	—
15—20 years .....	3	3	1	—		—	—	—
20—25 years .....	5	5	1	—	}	—	—	—
25—35 years .....	7	12	1	2		2	2	—
35—45 years .....	12	6	—	1		2	2	—
45—55 years .....	11	1	1	—	}	3	2	—
55—65 years .....	3	3	—	—		—	—	—
65 and upwards	7	2	—	1		3	—	—
Totals .....	50	33	6	7	8	4	—	1

TABLE 18. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1946—1955.

## INFANT MORTALITY IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales .....	42·9	41·4	33·9	32·4	29·8	29·6	27·6	26·8	25·5	24·9
Northampton .....	45·9	33·3	37·3	29·8	18·6	29·7	21·8	23·2	20·2	17·7

TABLE 19. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1951—1955.

## INFANT MORTALITY. CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Bronchitis .....	1	1	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations .....	11	4	6	5	4
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ....	1	1	—	—	1
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	5	5	1	5	5
Tuberculous Diseases .....	—	—	1	—	—
Violence .....	—	—	1*	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	2	—	—	—	1
All Other Causes, including Premature Birth .....	25	21	26	17	12
TOTAL DEATHS .....	45	32	35	28	24
TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS .....	1514	1467	1506	1386	1353
INFANT MORTALITY .....	29.7	21.8	23.2	20.2	17.7

\* This violent death was not caused by a motor vehicle accident.

TABLE 20. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## LIVE BIRTHS AND STILLBIRTHS REGISTERED AND NOTIFIED.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Live Births Registered .....	683	670	1353
Stillbirths Registered .....	19	13	32
*Total Births Registered .....	702	683	1385
Live Births Notified .....	1278	1197	2475
Stillbirths Notified .....	42	40	82
†Total Births Notified .....	1320	1237	2557

\* 1,141 (82.4 per cent.) of the total *registered* births occurred in institutions.

† 2,303 (90.1 per cent.) of the total *notified* births occurred in institutions.



TABLE 21. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS. SOURCES OF NOTIFICATION.

	NUMBER	PER CENT.
Medical Practitioners .....	3	0.1
Certified Midwives .....	2554	99.9
Parents and Others .....	—	—
Totals .....	2557	100.0

TABLE 22. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. STATISTICS.

CENTRE	DAY OF MEETING	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER WEEK					Average Number seen by Doctor per Session
		Mothers	Children under 1 year	Children 1—2 years	Children 2—5 years	Total Children under 5 years	
Abington Avenue	Thursday	61	41	14	19	74	18
Broadmead .....	Monday ....	49	31	12	16	59	21
Dallington .....	Thursday	57	35	12	11	58	12
Doddridge .....	Wednesday	61	39	16	20	75	17
Far Cotton .....	Monday ....	48	28	11	15	54	16
Far Cotton .....	Wednesday	29	22	6	6	34	11
Kingsley Park ....	Monday ....	44	24	10	14	48	16
Kingsthorpe .....	Tuesday ....	65	52	15	8	75	21
St. David's .....	Friday ....	24	17	9	9	35	13
*St. Edmund's ....	Friday ....	28	20	5	8	33	13
St. Giles' Street	Wednesday	50	27	12	15	54	15
St. Sepulchre's ....	Wednesday	50	39	11	8	58	15
St. Sepulchre's ....	Friday ....	44	28	9	12	49	12
*Victoria .....	Tuesday ....	43	22	14	13	49	17
Wheatfield Road	Friday ....	39	25	10	14	49	17
	Totals ....	692	450	166	188	804	234

\* Held at St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre, erected by Corporation in 1936 ; remainder held on hired premises.

TABLE 23     ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1946—1955  
MATERNAL MORTALITY\* IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales .....	1.43	1.17	1.02	0.98	0.86	0.79	0.72	0.76	0.69	0.64
Northampton .....	0.47	0.86	0.54	—	0.65	1.29	—	0.65	1.41	—

\* Calculated per 1,000 total (live and still) births registered and including deaths from abortion.

TABLE 24     NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955  
SUMMARY OF DENTAL WORK.

	EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS	CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS	TOTALS
<i>Numbers provided with Dental Care :—</i>			
Examined .....	18	335	353
Needing treatment .....	18	304	322
Treated .....	15	274	289
Made dentally fit .....	7	230	237
Attendances .....	57	769	826
<i>Forms of Dental Treatment provided :—</i>			
Scalings and gum treatment ....	4	—	4
Fillings .....	6	8	14
Silver nitrate treatment .....	1	792	793
Dressings .....	28	25	53
Crowns or inlays .....	—	—	—
Extractions .....	85	491	576
Anæsthetics :—			
Local .....	6	25	31
General .....	9	239	248
Dentures provided :—			
Full upper or lower .....	10	—	10
Partial upper or lower .....	2	—	2
Dentures repaired .....	2	—	2
Radiographs .....	—	—	—



TABLE 25. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1955.

## FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS.

Number of new cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F of Form B.D.8 recommends :— (a) No treatment (b) Treatment (medical, surgical, or optical)	CAUSE OF DISABILITY			
	CATARACT	GLAUCOMA	RETROLENTAL FIBROPLASIA	OTHERS
(a) No treatment	5	2	—	11
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical, or optical)	10	6	—	2
Number of cases at (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment .....	3	5	—	1

TABLE 26. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1949—1955.

## INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS.

DATES	NUMBER OF NAMES ON REGISTERS	
	BLIND	PARTIALLY SIGHTED
31-3-49	198	—
31-3-50	203	—
31-3-51	224	—
31-3-52	222	7
31-12-52	232	14
31-12-53	239	13
31-12-54	248	26
31-12-55	254	29

TABLE 27. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1921—1951.

DATA FROM CENSUS VOLUMES FOR COMPARISON.

	1951	1931	1921
(a) Enumerated population .....	104,432	92,341	90,895
(b) Intercensal increase .....	12,091*	1,446	831
(c) Rate of increase per cent. ....	13.1*	1.6	0.9
(d) Number of males .....	49,228	43,745	42,871
(e) Number of females .....	55,204	48,596	48,024
(f) Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males) .....	1,121	1,111	1,120
(g) Acreage (land and inland water) .....	6,201	3,469	3,469
(h) Persons per acre .....	16.8	26.6	26.2
(i) Parliamentary electors .....	75,028	62,577	44,306
(j) Electors per 1,000 population .....	718	678	487
(k) Private households .....	32,687	24,966	21,979
(l) Structurally separate dwellings occupied .....	30,677	23,141	19,893
(m) Excess of households over private dwellings occupied .....	2,010	1,825	2,086
(n) Total persons in private households .....	100,825	89,139	88,179
(o) Percentage of population in private households .....	96.5	96.6	97.0
(p) Rooms occupied by private households .....	149,199	127,222	112,410
(q) Average number of persons per room ....	0.68	0.70	0.78
(r) Average size of occupied dwelling (rooms) .....	4.86	5.50	5.65
(s) Average household occupation (rooms) .....	4.56	5.10	5.11
(t) Households per occupied dwelling .....	1.07	1.08	1.10
(u) Average size of private household (persons) .....	3.08	3.57	4.01
(v) Population in private households living at density of more than two persons per room .....	1,236	1,784	2,393
(w) Percentage of population in (v) .....	1.23	2.00	2.71
(x) Dwellings occupied by one private household .....	28,858	21,395	17,891
(y) Dwellings occupied by two private households .....	1,692	1,686	1,925
(z) Dwellings occupied by three or more private households .....	127	60	77

\* See remarks on page 18.



TABLE 28. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1951.

CENSUS STATISTICS RELATING TO POSSESSION OF  
CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS.

HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENTS	HOUSEHOLDS	PER CENT.
(1) Piped water :—		
Sharing with another household .....	4,375	} 14
Entirely without .....	179	
(2) Cooking stove :—		
Sharing .....	2,465	} 8
Entirely without .....	78	
(3) Kitchen sink :—		
Sharing .....	2,733	} 9
Entirely without .....	265	
(4) Water closet :—		
Sharing .....	3,198	} 11
Entirely without .....	543	
(5) Fixed bath :—		
Sharing .....	2,080	} 44
Entirely without .....	12,183	
Exclusive use of all five arrangements, (1) to (5) above .....	17,896	55
Exclusive use of stove and sink .....	29,643	91
Bath (shared or entirely without) and other four arrangements .....	9,464	29
Sink (shared or entirely without) and water closet (shared or without) .....	2,823	9
TOTAL PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS .....	32,687	—

See comment on page 19.

**TABLE A**  
**COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON**  
**Vital Statistics during 1955 and Previous Years.**

Year	Total Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Live Births			Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	Non-residents registered in the District	Residents not registered in the District	Under One Year		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 live Births	Number	Rate
1901	87096	2345	2345	26.9	1269	14.6	62	9	334	142.4	1216	14.0
1911	90152	1930	1931	21.4	1240	13.8	86	46	250	129.5	1200	13.3
1921	92300	1924	1881	20.4	1022	11.1	123	65	124	65.9	964	10.4
1931	92970	1307	1233	13.3	1243	13.4	205	53	87	70.6	1091	11.8
1932	96730	1326	1244	13.0	1265	13.2	207	50	80	64.3	1108	11.6
1933	96630	1236	1152	11.9	1277	13.2	236	50	52	45.1	1091	11.3
1934	96550	1298	1180	12.2	1344	13.9	289	41	54	45.8	1096	11.4
1935	96700	1301	1155	11.9	1311	13.6	298	38	58	50.2	1051	10.9
1936	96300	1419	1204	12.5	1448	15.0	298	59	48	39.9	1209	12.6
1937	96360	1518	1197	12.4	1465	15.2	302	54	57	47.6	1217	12.6
1938	96540	1556	1203	12.5	1294	13.4	283	60	56	46.6	1071	11.1
1939	96440	1704	1190	12.3	1458	14.7	368	65	52	41.7	1155	11.6
1940	103700	1847	1229	11.9	1812	17.5	418	52	69	49.0	1446	13.9
1941	108930	2101	1282	11.8	1776	16.3	450	69	91	52.9	1395	12.8
1942	101800	2133	1597	15.7	1468	14.4	362	61	68	42.6	1167	11.5
1943	98150	2244	1761	17.9	1616	16.5	390	64	69	39.2	1290	13.1
1944	100040	2627	2074	20.7	1583	15.8	416	53	96	46.3	1220	12.2
1945	98520	2412	1788	18.1	1586	16.1	382	69	72	40.3	1273	12.9
1946	102760	2847	2111	20.5	1571	15.3	399	59	97	45.9	1231	12.0
1947	104480	3000	2283	21.9	1606	15.4	363	43	76	33.3	1286	12.3
1948	104380	2518	1825	17.5	1543	14.8	401	54	68	37.3	1196	11.5
1949	104300	2377	1646	15.8	1581	15.2	414	92	49	29.8	1259	12.1
1950	105490	2497	1502	14.2	1547	14.7	397	113	28	18.6	1263	12.0
1951	103700	2510	1514	14.6	1668	16.1	391	137	45	29.7	1414	13.6
1952	103700	2583	1467	14.1	1489	14.4	358	91	32	21.8	1222	11.8
1953	104000	2592	1506	14.5	1650	15.9	346	36	35	23.2	1340	12.9
1954	103700	2536	1386	13.4	1566	15.1	376	48	28	20.2	1238	11.9
1955	102800	2472	1353	13.2	1570	15.3	390	56	24	17.7	1236	12.0

This Table is arranged to shew the gross births and deaths in Northampton County Borough and the births and deaths properly belonging to the town, with the corresponding rates.

The birth-rate and death-rate for 1932 are calculated on a mean population of 95,670 owing to the County Borough extension on 1st April, 1932.

In 1931 and 1939 the death-rates are based on the estimated civil populations supplied by the Registrar-General for that purpose. The population for death-rate calculation in 1939 was 99,290.

Non-civilian deaths are excluded during the years 1939 to 1949.

**NOTE :** Table B (Cases of Notifiable Diseases) and Table C (Causes of Death) are inserted after page 106.





NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR 1955

BY

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health  
Principal School Medical Officer  
Chief Tuberculosis Officer  
Welfare Administrator

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## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*(as constituted on 31st December, 1955)*

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*Deputy-Chairman :*

ALDERMAN F. TOLLIT

*Aldermen :*

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*Chief Education Officer :*

H. A. SKERRETT, B.A., A.R.HIST.S.



## STAFF OF SCHOOL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1955

<i>Principal School Medical Officer</i>	CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Deputy Principal School Medical Officer</i>	JAMES G. HAGAN, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.
<i>School Medical Officers</i>	MARGARET O'CONNOR, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. JOHN J. HOLLOWAY, M.B., B.CH., L.M., D.P.H.
<i>Principal School Dental Officer</i>	J. P. WILSON, L.D.S.R.C.S.
<i>Assistant Dental Officer</i> ... ..	Vacant
<i>Educational Psychologist*</i> ...	Miss D. V. SCOTT, M.A.
<i>Psychiatric Social Worker*</i> ...	Miss E. E. BITCHENOR, B.A.
<i>Speech Therapist</i> ... ..	Miss E. WESTLEY
<i>School Nurses</i> † ... ..	Miss G. E. LANTSBERY (1, 2) Mrs. A. J. MAPLEY (1) ( <i>Resigned 31/8/55</i> )
<i>Clerks</i> ... ..	Miss M. E. L. PHILLIPS ( <i>Senior Clerk</i> ) Miss A. E. SCOTTS Miss P. HOWKINS
<i>Clerks and Chairsides Assistants</i>	Miss J. W. SEAMARK ( <i>Resigned 28/2/55</i> ) Mrs. J. MARSHMAN Miss D. GRAY ( <i>Commenced 14/3/55</i> )

\* Under a joint scheme with Northamptonshire Education Authority.

† Health Visitors (*see* page 14) also gave part-time assistance in school health service under a co-ordinated scheme. References to "School Nurses" in this Report include such help.

(1) State Registered Nurse.

(2) State Certified Midwife.

## GENERAL INFORMATION, 1955

Home Population at all Ages (estimated at 30th June, 1955) 102,800

Estimated Child Population (30th June, 1955) :—

Under 1 year ....	1,330
1—4 years inclusive .....	5,570
5—14 years inclusive .....	15,700
<b>Total under 15 years ....</b>	<b>22,600</b>

PRIMARY SCHOOLS	<i>Number on Rolls</i>
Number of Schools ....	26
Number of Departments .....	36
Number on Rolls ....	10,738
Average Attendance ....	9,688 (90·2 per cent.)

SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOLS	
Number of Schools ....	8
Number of Departments .....	9
Number on Rolls .....	3,215
Average Attendance ....	2,912 (90·6 per cent.)

GRAMMAR AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS	
Grammar School for Boys (Town and County) ....	834
Grammar School for Girls .....	520
Technical High School—Mixed .....	462

SPECIAL SCHOOLS	
Wellington Place ....	74
Open Air .....	104
Manfield Orthopædic Hospital .....	33
John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home ...	19

NURSERY SCHOOLS	
Silver Street ....	88
Bush Hill .....	39
Delapre .....	39
Gloucester .....	39
Victoria Park ....	39
Wallace Road ....	39

Total Number of Pupils on Rolls .... 16,282

## COST OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

	£	s.	d.
Total Nett Cost (Year 1954/55) ....	10,550	12	4



## MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1955.

TABLE I. (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

#### A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Age Groups inspected and Number of Children examined in each :

Entrants .....	1,261
Second Age Group .....	2,844
Leavers .....	1,021
Total .....	5,126
Additional Periodic Inspections .....	465
Grand Total .....	5,591

Parents present at the above inspections numbered 4,046 (72·4 per cent.).

#### B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections .....	1,825
Number of Re-inspections .....	5,316
Total .....	7,141

#### C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL PUPILS FOUND AT PERIODIC MEDICAL  
INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding Dental Diseases and  
Infestation with Vermin)

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table II.A	Total individual pupils
Entrants .....	6	318	324
Second Age Group .....	119	628	722
Leavers .....	43	147	187
Total .....	168	1,093	1,233
Additional Periodic Inspections ....	19	101	114
Grand Total .....	187	1,194	1,347

TABLE II.

## A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment
4	Skin .....	193	97	189	8
5	Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision .....	187	155	535	98
	<i>b.</i> Squint .....	35	62	59	3
	<i>c.</i> Other .....	34	27	21	2
6	Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing .....	12	36	15	8
	<i>b.</i> Otitis Media ....	17	6	9	—
	<i>c.</i> Other .....	13	1	24	—
7	Nose or Throat .....	142	326	31	17
8	Speech .....	17	31	33	20
9	Cervical Glands .....	11	37	1	2
10	Heart and Circulation .....	54	174	12	3
11	Lungs .....	114	159	22	4
12	Developmental—				
	<i>a.</i> Hernia .....	7	6	—	—
	<i>b.</i> Other .....	40	253	—	1
13	Orthopædic—				
	<i>a.</i> Posture .....	64	16	3	—
	<i>b.</i> Flat foot .....	343	43	13	—
	<i>c.</i> Other .....	75	79	21	6
14	Nervous system—				
	<i>a.</i> Epilepsy .....	3	1	2	—
	<i>b.</i> Other .....	25	16	7	3
15	Psychological—				
	<i>a.</i> Development ....	3	17	15	18
	<i>b.</i> Stability .....	52	113	17	31
16	Other .....	73	103	303	34

## B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants .....	1,261	956	75·8	287	22·8	18	1·4
Second Age Group	2,844	2,303	80·9	528	18·6	13	0·5
Leavers .....	1,021	787	77·1	226	22·1	8	0·8
Additional Periodic Inspections ....	465	338	72·7	126	27·1	1	0·2
Total .....	5,591	4,384	78·4	1,167	20·9	40	0·7



TABLE III.  
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons .....	38,140
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested .....	556
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	554
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	—

School nurses made 291 surprise visits to schools for the purpose of inspecting children's hair. The percentage of uncleanliness found was 2·2, compared with 1·8 in 1954.

Printed instructions giving detailed methods of cleansing were issued to the parents of those children found to be infested. A D.D.T. preparation and a medicated shampoo were supplied when necessary.

Facilities are available at the School Clinic for children's hair to be treated by a trained nurse. 45 children were dealt with during 1955, compared with 54 in 1954.

TABLE IV.  
TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY  
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)  
GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding Uncleanliness, for  
which see Table III.)

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Ringworm— (i) Scalp .....	—	—
(ii) Body .....	8	2
Scabies .....	12	—
Impetigo .....	22	2
Other skin diseases .....	249	171
Total .....	291	175

## GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases dealt with	
	by the Authority	otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint .....	181	8
Errors of refraction (including squint) .....	—	838
Total .....	181	846
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) prescribed .....	—	596
(b) obtained .....	—	490

## GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear .....	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis .....	—	308
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ....	—	1
Received other forms of treatment .....	62	102
Total .....	62	411

## GROUP 4.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals ....	45	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, <i>e.g.</i> , in clinics or out-patient departments .....	23	724



## GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	Number of cases treated	
	in the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics .....	41	—

## GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	140	1

## GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments .....	1,244	15
(b) Heart and circulation .....	12	38
(c) Lungs .....	12	96
(d) Developmental—		
Hernia .....	—	11
Other .....	—	32
(e) Nervous system—		
Epilepsy .....	—	4
Other .....	—	14
(f) Psychological—		
Development .....	—	1
Stability .....	32	18
(g) Other conditions .....	39	38
Total .....	1,339	267

TABLE V.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(This Table is printed on page 103).

### INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The table below gives a comparison of the cases of notifiable disease amongst the general population and school children during 1955 :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED (ALL AGES)	CASES AMONGST SCHOOL CHILDREN
Acute Poliomyelitis :—		
Paralytic .....	5	3
Non-paralytic .....	—	—
*Dysentery .....	332	179*
*Erysipelas .....	23	1*
Food Poisoning .....	13	3
*Measles .....	2,003	1,044*
*Pneumonia .....	53	8*
*Scarlet Fever .....	145	97*
*Whooping Cough .....	244	105*
Tuberculosis :—		
Respiratory .....	83	3
Other Forms .....	13	4

\*Most cases of these diseases were not investigated. The figures marked with an asterisk relate to cases within the age-group five to fifteen years, whether investigated or not.

### CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shews the principal causes of death amongst children of school age (five to fifteen years) for the fifteen-year period ended December, 1955 :—

CAUSE	1941–1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total Deaths	Percent- age of Total
Violence .....	24	—	5	1	1	3	34	23·6
Tuberculosis .....	20	1	—	1	1	1	24†	16·7
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and Other Diseases of Respiratory System ....	4	—	1	2	2	—	9	6·2
Heart Disease .....	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	4·8
Nephritis .....	4	—	—	—	1	—	5	3·5
Diphtheria .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	2·1
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1·4
Other Conditions .....	47	5	3	2	1	2	60	41·7
Totals .....	110	6	9	6	6	7	144*	100·0

\* 0·8 per cent. of the 19,030 deaths at all ages during the fifteen years.

† 4 respiratory tuberculosis, 20 non-respiratory tuberculosis.



## SCHOOL CLINIC ATTENDANCES

Schools	Children	Attendances		
		Treatment	Inspection	Totals
Maintained Primary and Secondary .....	3,747	7,571	2,359	9,930
Special .....	79	253	60	313
Nursery .....	266	327	262	589
Non-maintained .....	24	42	3	45
Pre-school .....	49	119	3	122
Totals .....	4,165	8,312	2,687	10,999

### FOLLOWING-UP

Visits paid to primary, secondary, and special schools by doctors and nurses to follow up children found defective at medical inspection .....	126
Visits to homes :—	
By doctors .....	10
By nurses .....	1,225
Re-examinations made by doctors .....	4,378

In addition, the school nurses during 285 visits to schools made 2,888 other examinations and carried out 259 treatments.

### EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC

317 children (308 primary and secondary, 6 nursery, and 3 non-maintained) were operated upon for tonsils and adenoids during 1955. The figure for 1954 was 720.

*See Table IV., Group 3, on page 95.*

A children's ear nose and throat clinic is held at Northampton General Hospital, to which cases are referred.

### EYE CLINIC

The Ophthalmic Surgeon attended the School Clinic once or twice a week as required, by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board. 754 children were examined. 661 were from primary and secondary schools, 14 from special, 10 from nursery, 19 from non-maintained schools, and 50 pre-school.

*See Table IV., Group 2, on page 95.*

An orthoptic clinic is held at Northampton General Hospital, to which cases are referred, when necessary, by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

### CONJUNCTIVITIS

Only 13 cases were noted during 1955 and in no month were there more than 3 cases.

This subject has been fully dealt with in the Annual Reports for 1948 onwards.

In 1948 there were 923 cases, but since then the annual numbers have progressively fallen, as follows : 267, 89, 87, 80, 49, 31, 13.

### CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

This service is shared with Northamptonshire County Council. Cases are referred to the Psychiatrist or Educational Psychologist, as necessary.

48 new cases from Northampton County Borough were referred during 1955 for psychiatric treatment at the Child Guidance Clinic and 198 to the school psychological service.

*See Table IV., Group 5, page 96.*

### SPEECH CLINIC

This Clinic is held at 28 Billing Road, Northampton.

140 children were dealt with under speech therapy arrangements during 1955 and at the end of the year 104 were still under treatment.

### SUNLIGHT CLINIC

47 school children made 592 attendances in 1955 for ultra-violet light treatment at the School Clinic.

### ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT

45 Northampton children were under treatment at Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, or the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home, during 1955.

665 local children were treated at the Orthopædic Clinic as out-patients.

Remedial exercises for flat feet, round shoulders, etc., were given at the School Clinic to 25 children (23 primary and secondary, 2 nursery).

### SPASTIC UNIT

A Unit for twenty spastic children (day or residential) from town or county has been established at the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home and was opened on 5th January, 1954. Three children suffering from spastic paralysis were transferred from the Open Air Recovery School as day pupils. Two more children were admitted during 1954 and two during 1955. They receive education and also physiotherapy or other treatment as considered necessary. Transport by bus or taxi is provided by the Education Committee, if considered necessary.



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

181 children were immunised and 629 received reinforcing doses at the School Clinic.

There is record that 13,035 children in the age-group 5 to 14 years inclusive had been immunised by 31st December, 1955. This is 83·0 per cent. of the estimated population of 15,700 in this age-group. The immunity index, *i.e.*, the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years, is 36·2.

## B.C.G. VACCINATION

On 13th September, 1954, the Minister of Health approved an amendment to Northampton County Borough Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, whereby B.C.G. vaccination could be offered to thirteen-year-old pupils, subject to the necessary preliminary tests and to parental consent.

The scheme commenced on 22nd November, 1955, and by the end of the year 140 children had been vaccinated.

## SCABIES

The number of new cases treated under the Authority's scheme during 1955 was 9, involving 7 children, 2 children having the infection twice during the year.

## RINGWORM OF THE SCALP

No cases of ringworm of the scalp were noted during 1955.

## FREE MEALS

Number of children in receipt of free meals .....	152
Total number of free meals supplied .....	25,070
Number of centres where meals were prepared .....	18

## WELLINGTON PLACE SPECIAL SCHOOL

This School is for educationally sub-normal children.

39 children were examined at routine medical inspections and the Deputy Principal School Medical Officer paid 18 visits and made 53 special inspections or re-inspections.

There were 26 special inspections or re-inspections at the School Clinic.

7 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

5 visits were paid by school nurses, when 265 examinations were made.

These figures are included in the relative tables throughout this report.

### OPEN AIR RECOVERY SCHOOL

18 visits were paid to this School by the School Medical Officers and 60 routine and 269 other examinations were carried out.

Special inspections and re-inspections at the School Clinic numbered 51.

7 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

59 visits were made by school nurses for general supervision ; 259 treatments were given and 392 other examinations conducted.

The above statistics are included in the relative tables earlier in this report.

### NURSERY SCHOOLS

There are six nursery schools. The places provided total 283 (*see* page 91 for details).

In addition, there is a Nursery Class attached to Bective Infants' School.

449 routine examinations, 9 special examinations, and 281 re-examinations were done at nursery schools.

39 special inspections or re-inspections were made at the School Clinic.

10 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

6 were operated upon for tonsils and adenoids.

In addition, the school nurses paid 65 visits for general supervision or cleanliness surveys and made 2,132 examinations. They also made 52 home visits in connection with nursery children.

### OTHER EXAMINATIONS

During 1955 there were 263 special examinations at the School Clinic of handicapped children, candidates for juvenile employment, children being boarded out, teachers, etc.

The medical examination of entrants to courses of training for teaching and of candidates in connection with employment as teachers is undertaken by the School Health Service.

### INQUIRIES BY N.S.P.C.C.

The Local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children made investigations on behalf of the Education Authority into conditions involving 12 families (25 children). These were mostly cases of neglect and appear to have been dealt with satisfactorily.

### NON-MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOL

Notre Dame High School for Girls was visited twice during 1955 by a School Medical Officer.

226 routine examinations and 60 re-examinations were made at school.



### HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The several categories of handicapped pupils requiring special educational treatment are defined in Regulation 14 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, and the numbers on the register on 31st January, 1956, were as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
(1) Blind .....	1	1	2
(2) Partially sighted .....	—	—	—
(3) Deaf .....	6	2	8
(4) Partially deaf .....	3	2	5
(5) Delicate .....	39	31	70
(6) Physically handicapped .....	35	15	50
(7) Educationally sub-normal .....	41	30	71
(8) Maladjusted .....	5	3	8
(9) Epileptic .....	2	2	4
Totals .....	132	86	218

### DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The number of half-day sessions allocated in 1955 to the administration of the school dental service and to dental inspection and treatment was 464.

In addition, treatment was provided for patients referred under the maternity and child welfare scheme, amounting to 47 sessions.

#### NUMBER OF SESSIONS DEVOTED TO :—

MR. J. P. WILSON

(1) Administration .....	12
(2) Inspection (a) at School .....	0
(b) at Clinic .....	23
(3) Treatment .....	429
	464
(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Work .....	47
Total .....	511

Sessions included under administration were those devoted to the preparation of the annual report, attendance at meetings, etc.

In accordance with Regulation 10 (1)(b) of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, every pupil who is admitted for the first time to a maintained school should be inspected by a dental officer as soon as possible after admission and on such later occasions as may be practicable and necessary.

It is regretted that owing to the fact that only one dentist was available throughout the whole year, it was not possible to comply with the Regulation quoted in the previous paragraph.

TABLE V.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officer :—		
(a) Periodic (at School)	.....	0
(b) Specials (at Clinic)	.....	3,472
Total (a) and (b)	.....	3,472
<hr/>		
(2) Number found to require treatment	.....	3,233
(3) Number referred for treatment	.....	3,230
(4) Number actually treated	.....	2,924
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	.....	9,660
<hr/>		
(6) Half-days devoted to :		
(a) Inspection	.....	23
(b) Treatment	.....	429
Total (a) and (b)	.....	452
(c) Administration	.....	12
(d) Maternity and Child Welfare Work	.....	47*
Total (a), (b), (c), (d)	....	511
<hr/>		
(7) Fillings :		
Permanent Teeth	.....	1,850
Temporary Teeth	.....	51
Total	.....	1,901
<hr/>		
(8) Number of teeth filled :		
Permanent Teeth	.....	1,502
Temporary Teeth	.....	49
Total	.....	1,551
<hr/>		
(9) Extractions :		
Permanent Teeth	.....	1,353
Temporary Teeth	.....	4,339
Total	.....	5,692
<hr/>		
(10) Administration by School Medical Officers of general anæsthetics for extraction		
	.....	1,571
(11) Other operations :		
Permanent Teeth	.....	2,978
Temporary Teeth	.....	1,120
Total	.....	4,098
<hr/>		

\* The work under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is summarised in Table 24, page 83.



Treatment was also carried out for children attending Nursery Schools :—

Number inspected .....	19
Referred for treatment .....	19
Treated { partly ..... 6 } { completely ..... 9 }	15
Attendances .....	39
Extractions .....	35
General anæsthetics .....	13
Other operations .....	48

The use of silver nitrate for conserving deciduous teeth, and also for treating chalky patches on second teeth, has proved to be a reliable form of treatment, but is not shewn separately in the above tables, the figures being included under heading (11) "other operations." 954 deciduous and 389 permanent teeth were treated with silver nitrate during 1955.

Not included in the tables at all is the number of local anæsthetic cases, which reached 1,742 in 1955.

Regulation treatment, which continues to be in great demand, has at last been recognised by the Ministry of Education and details of treatment given will appear for the first time in the Medical Inspection Returns for 1956. Although limiting the number of new cases, it has been possible to maintain a reasonable service.

In 1955, new cases started amounted to 68. They were fitted with 71 appliances and 10 were completed. 25 cases brought forward from 1954 were fitted with 26 appliances, 4 being finished. 29 other cases under treatment at the beginning of the year were also made perfect. Thus a total of 43 cases were completed during 1955. Most of the 16 cases written off as failures during the year were done so because the children and parents were not co-operating satisfactorily. In all, 106 cases were carried forward to 1956.

Children who had second front teeth damaged by accident were still provided with the necessary treatment as quickly as possible. Teeth where there was no exposure of the pulp (*i.e.*, the nerve) were capped with a copper ring. Where the nerve was exposed it was partly removed (vital pulpotomy) when the root of the tooth had not finished growing, and completely removed (pulp extirpation) when the root had finished forming. The vital teeth generally have a jacket crown fitted at a much later date, anything from three to six years later, whilst the dead teeth (where the pulp has been completely removed) have a full crown fitted in about twelve months. When it has not been possible to save a tooth by either of the above two methods and extraction has been carried out, a denture is inserted. 11 crowns were fitted and 23 dentures were inserted in 1955.



There were not so many bleeding cases reported during the year. 9 only were reported by parents, 4 of whom returned to the School Clinic during normal working hours. The other 5 either telephoned or called at the Dental Officer's residence. One case may have been due to medical complications. It seems probable that only 2 cases were true "bleeders." It is interesting to note that general anæsthesia was used in 6 cases and local anæsthesia in the other 3. Hæmophiliacs are referred to the Dental Consultant at Northampton General Hospital and extractions carried out there.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During 1955 considerable progress was made in physical education, particularly in swimming and outdoor activities. Many more children are attending the Baths than ever before and swimming can now be regarded as an all-the-year-round activity. In July, 1955, a census was taken of swimmers amongst school children and each swimmer's longest distance was recorded, with the following result :—

DISTANCE	NUMBER OF PUPILS
1 mile .....	424
$\frac{1}{2}$ mile .....	313
$\frac{1}{4}$ mile .....	300
140 yards .....	428
60 yards .....	872
15 yards .....	1,308
	<hr/>
Total .....	3,645
	<hr/>

1,313 children learned to swim at least fifteen yards during 1955.

Work in primary schools is developing on the lines indicated in the 1954 Report. Increasing familiarity with the new approach to the physical education lesson enables the teachers to make the work more enjoyable and stimulating to the children.

Problems still exist regarding the form which the physical training lesson should take in the modern secondary boys' schools. It is comparatively easy to interest the first and second year boys in gymnastics, but it becomes increasingly difficult to do so from the third year onwards. By then the skills, vaults, and agilities demand a degree of natural ability, which all boys do not possess. In the fourth year the problem is even more complex ; it may yet be proved that still more modification of the formal gymnastic lesson will be necessary before the non-athletic boy develops that keenness and enthusiasm which is essential if he is to benefit fully from his physical education lessons.

In the secondary modern girls' schools it is encouraging to see the growing interest in hockey. As well as the usual friendly matches a special section of the Schools' Hockey Tournament was started for secondary modern school teams. This venture, in which four school teams from the County Borough participated, proved a success.



Netball continues to be a very popular game and all the girls' schools play one or two teams in the leagues and tournament.

Although at present throwing events form a very small part of the girls' athletics programme, this side has a great sense of achievement to offer girls of lesser physical ability who are unable to hold their own in track events. It is hoped that teachers will appreciate this aspect of athletics and try to fit more of it into the training programme.

Teachers continue to devote much out-of-school time to games of all kinds. Association football has a firm hold in all boys' schools, both secondary modern and primary. Nevertheless, Rugby football is also played in the secondary schools in order that a boy can make his own choice regarding the game he wishes to play when he leaves school. Many schools have adopted the massed coaching technique for cricket and the results are sufficiently encouraging to extend the experiment for another year.

Some considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining specialist three year trained teachers of physical education for secondary modern schools. Physical education covers so wide a field that at least one teacher holding the Diploma of a physical training college should be appointed to the staff of each school. Whilst the Authority would agree that this is desirable, it is not possible to make such appointments as the number of specialists from the physical training colleges is insufficient to meet the demand. The position will be made yet more difficult by the increasing numbers of pupils entering secondary schools.

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NOTE : Table A relating to Vital Statistics 1901 to 1955 is on page 87.

TABLE B  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON  
Cases of Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED														CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD											Cases Treated in Hospital	
	ALL AGES	AGES (IN YEARS)													Castle	Delapre	Kingsley	Kingsthorpe	St. Crispin	St. Edmund	St. George	St. James	St. Michael	South	Spencer		Weston
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Not Known													
Acute Poliomyelitis :—																											
Paralytic .....	5	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Non-paralytic .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	332	7	20	12	25	27	142	37	7	23	14	8	8	2	14	3	3	86	7	13	24	13	5	2	158	4	6
Erysipelas .....	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	2	9	6	—	—	3	3	2	2	3	—	—	3	—	5	2	—
Food Poisoning .....	13	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	2	2
Measles .....	2003	37	176	232	230	271	1029	15	1	5	1	1	—	5	126	67	249	356	147	129	88	149	162	47	318	165	21
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia .....	53	—	1	2	1	2	6	2	1	6	4	18	8	2	6	2	4	12	3	1	8	3	1	1	8	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	134	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	102	18	—	—	3	2	5	3	7	2	3	3	6	9	81	7	6	131
Scarlet Fever .....	145	—	2	8	18	15	87	10	2	2	1	—	—	—	2	4	23	23	2	11	18	11	19	—	14	18	31
Whooping Cough .....	244	30	19	27	30	33	101	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	14	30	42	22	19	22	7	6	4	36	14	4
Tuberculosis :—																											
Respiratory .....	83	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	6	29	18	18	9	—	6	8	13	9	8	7	5	3	8	5	7	4	55
Other Forms .....	13	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	4	1	5
TOTALS .....	3050	78	220	282	307	349	1373	71	30	175	63	58	32	12	188	107	331	543	195	187	170	194	215	141	558	221	262

The above figures allow for corrections in diagnosis and include non-civilian cases. (See Sections VI. and VII. of this Report for further information).  
No notifications were received of other notifiable diseases not specified in the Table above (e.g., diphtheria, malaria, smallpox, typhoid fever).





TABLE C

COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life during the Year 1955

CAUSES OF DEATH	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES (IN YEARS) OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT										
	ALL AGES			0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
	Total	M.	F.								
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	12	8	4	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	3
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough .....	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis .....	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	5	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	39	22	17	—	—	—	—	1	17	13	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	46	41	5	—	—	—	—	3	27	13	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	28	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	15	9	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	117	60	57	—	—	1	—	7	33	34	42
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia .....	3	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
16. Diabetes .....	8	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	205	94	111	—	—	—	—	4	27	53	121
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	202	130	72	—	—	—	—	1	48	70	83
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	31	15	16	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	20
20. Other heart disease .....	240	105	135	—	—	—	—	8	25	55	152
21. Other circulatory disease .....	34	19	15	—	—	—	—	—	11	13	10
22. Influenza .....	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2
23. Pneumonia .....	26	15	11	5	—	—	—	1	4	13	3
24. Bronchitis .....	41	25	16	1	—	—	—	1	6	20	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	12	8	4	—	1	—	1	—	7	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	10	6	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa .....	7	3	4	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	7
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	7	5	2	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	78	36	42	12	—	1	2	2	21	15	25
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	7	7	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	—
34. All other accidents .....	28	14	14	—	1	3	—	1	3	2	18
35. Suicide .....	15	12	3	—	—	—	—	2	9	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	1236	658	578	24*	4	7	4	45	280	344	528

\* 15 of these 24 infants were under four weeks of age.

The above Table was prepared from information supplied by the Registrar-General.









